

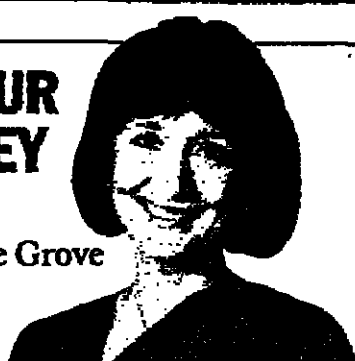


WHO WILL WIN THE PREMIERSHIP?
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TOMORROW

HOW TO BECOME AN IT GIRL
MAGAZINE



Bank of England announces fourth rate rise since election

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT AND CAROLINE MERRILL

INTEREST rates were raised yesterday for the fourth time since the election but the Bank of England indicated that it would not need to increase them again in the short term.

The quarter-point rise puts base rates at 7 per cent, the highest for four-and-a-half years. But the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee said this was now enough to meet the inflation target imposed

on it by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Cheltenham & Gloucester, the mortgage arm of Lloyds-TSB, immediately announced that its main mortgage rate would rise from 8.2 per cent to 8.45 per cent for new borrowers. Other banks and building societies said they would wait and see before deciding their borrowing and lending rates.

The Bank's announcement had an immediate effect on the pound, which fell by 1.5 cents against the dollar to less than \$1.59 and by five

pfennings against the mark to DM 2.97. However, sterling held at ten French francs and 250 Spanish pesetas.

On the Stock Exchange blue chip shares surged, taking the FTSE 100 shares index up a further 60.6 points to another record of 5,086.8. Bank shares were the most popular. Government bonds also gained strongly.

Mortgages have risen 1.25 per cent since the general election. As a result, the interest cost of the average new mortgage of £50,000

will have risen by £564 a year since May 2.

It costs banks and building societies an estimated £5 million every time they raise interest rates. The money is spent on informing borrowers of the change and altering standing orders.

Short-term interest rates are now expected to peak at less than 7.5 per cent and come back to no more than 7.25 per cent next year. City analysts said that the rate rise had been made now so that the Bank could say it was on top of inflation

when it publishes its quarterly *Inflation Report* next week and that no further changes were likely for three months.

Industry reacted angrily to the news. Kate Barker, chief economist at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "There is increasing evidence that the weakness in the export sector will slow the pace of UK economic growth significantly during 1998."

"Strong sterling means serious problems for many companies today. We are concerned that this

will exacerbate these difficulties in the months to come."

Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "This is the last thing Britain's exporters and their suppliers need at this time."

The CBI's own survey of High Street sales, published yesterday, showed that consumer spending is still buoyant. The report argued that growth was steady and not getting out of control.

Nikko Europe, a leading City firm, has delivered a downbeat

assessment of the Government's performance and accused it of over-emphasis on presentation. In a special report the company said: "The biggest change since May is in the rhetoric. Some of the radical changes by the Labour Government have not, on close inspection, been so radical. Nothing is as it may at first seem. Beware of the spin."

Leading article, page 17
Balancing act, page 21
Anatole Kaletsky, page 25

FA reviews rules as jury clears players of match-fixing

By STEPHEN FARRELL, OLIVER HOIT AND CAROL MIDDLEY

THE Football Association has ordered a review of the rules of the national game in the wake of match-fixing allegations against three Premiership players and a businessman who were finally cleared of conspiracy yesterday.

After two trials lasting 17 weeks and costing more than £12 million, the footballers John Fashanu and Hans Segers were found not guilty of conspiring with the businessman Heng Swan Lin to receive and give corrupt payments from a Far Eastern betting syndicate.

Grobelaar, alone still awaits the jury's verdict on a charge of corruption after he was filmed apparently accepting £2,000 to influence the outcome of a match in 1994. But even before the jury had retired at Winchester Crown Court, the FA had set up an investigation to try to reassure the public that no English players were involved in betting and match fixing. The inquiry, announced yesterday, is being conducted by the former Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Sir John Smith, who is to report within three months. The FA had responded for any evidence of match fixing soon after the allegations were



Grobelaar: verdict awaited on final charge

first made against the four men, who went on trial at Winchester, but David Davies, the FA's public affairs director, said that none had been forthcoming.

Mr Davies was speaking after the jury announced its first verdicts, having deliberated for more than 26 hours. A previous jury had failed to reach agreement after a 34-day trial.

The decision to press ahead with the retrial was personally cleared by Dame Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, who is already facing criticism over the way the Crown Prosecu-

tion Service decides whether to launch court proceedings. Yesterday, the verdicts were received with shrieks of delight from the players' wives. Mr Fashanu's wife, Melissa, cried: "It's finished, it's finished. There's no more," and then clasped hands with Astrid Segers and Debbie Grobbelaar as their husbands shook hands in the dock.

Outside the court, Mr Fashanu - a former England striker who went on to present the *Gladiators* television programme - said: "I was dragged into this storm two and a half years ago. I have maintained my right to si-

lence. I'm not bitter at all. Now all I want to do is get on with my family life."

As Mr Grobbelaar left court to return this morning, he said: "You should never have doubted me." And Mr Segers, the Dutch-born former Wimbledon goalkeeper, said: "It has been a two-and-a-half-year nightmare, but in the end we got the verdicts we wanted and deserved."

The investigation began in November 1994, when *The Sun* secretly filmed Mr Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper, being offered £2,000 by his former business partner Chris Vincent. Mr Grobbelaar announced plans to sue the paper, but four months later he and his three co-accused were arrested.

The prosecution claimed that bank accounts and mobile telephone records showed a pattern of calls between the four men and Far Eastern gambling syndicates before and after key matches. But witnesses including the former England goalkeepers Bob Wilson and Gordon Banks said that they could see no evidence from videos of the defendants throwing matches.

Mr Grobbelaar and Mr Segers both said that they had been paid to throw results but that they had not predicted the results of matches involving their teams. Mr Grobbelaar also said that he



John Fashanu leaves court with his wife Melissa. "All I want to do is get on with my family life," he said

discussed bribes with Mr Vincent simply to expose him as a match fixer.

Mr Grobbelaar's fate may now depend on seven barely audible words missed by teams of police and lawyers but detected by jurors as they considered their verdicts.

After listening to enhanced

videotape recordings of a conversation between Mr Grobbelaar and Mr Vincent, the jury noticed that the trial transcript failed to include Mr Vincent's remark "I don't have a jacket, you carry this", uttered just before Mr Grobbelaar is seen picking up a package containing £2,000.

Police appeal over shot boy

Detectives appealed to the criminal underworld to give up the killer who shot dead Dillon Hill, five, and wounded his stepfather, John Bates, in Bolton. They think the murder and the wounding were part of a feud between drug pushers. Page 2

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Simon supports RAF charity

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD SIMON of Highbury, the minister embroiled in the BP share controversy, is to use some of the profit from the sale of his holdings to honour the memory of his late father, a Spitfire pilot who flew hundreds of wartime missions.

The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund is to receive a substantial portion of the £350,000 accrued by Lord Simon on his £2.3 million holding since he became a minister on May 7.

The minister's late father, Roger, was a highly decorated Spitfire pilot who flew the Free French, who escaped the German invading forces with General de Gaulle in 1940. He worked closely with the general for the duration of the war plotting the capture of his beloved France.

The Royal Air Force remained one of the first loves of Mr Simon until his death a few years ago when his ashes were scattered at Shoreham Airport near his Sussex home.

The Times has also learnt that Lord Simon, 56, is preparing to make financial provision for Christ's Hospital, in Horsham, Sussex. He won a scholarship to the school in 1950. The school, which was founded by King Edward VI in 1552, to care for the children of London's poor, will be a beneficiary of a charitable

trust fund being set up on Lord Simon's behalf by his London bank.

Lord Simon, who was the head boy in 1958, already gives financial support to two pupils at the school, which is a charitable institution. It offers independent education to children with academic potential who would otherwise be denied the chance. One third of the parents pay no fees.

The Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, who went on to Cambridge from Christ's, is one of a long list of famous alumni. They include St Edmund Campion, the first Jesuit martyr, Sir Barnes Wallis, the inventor of the bouncing bomb, and the cricketer John Snow.

One of the school's most Continued on page 2, col 1



The old school badge



"I've got the ultimate defence - I've filled it with lawyers"

Square-rigger's master jailed

Mark Litchfield, the owner and master of the *Maria Asumpta*, the world's oldest square-rigger sailing vessel, was jailed for 18 months for manslaughter after the vessel smashed into rocks off Padstow in north Cornwall with the loss of three lives.

Exeter Crown Court was told he sailed far too close to the shore in order to give cliff-top spectators a good view. Page 3

Debut wicket

Australia scored 302 for three on the opening day of the fifth Test at Trent Bridge. Ben Hollis, making his debut for England, took one of the wickets. Disastrously for England, the Australian captain won his fifth consecutive toss. Page 40

Major who spoke out is suspended

By MARK HENDERSON

THE Army major who this week attacked the Armed Forces for "antiquated" class attitudes in recruitment and promotion was suspended last night pending an inquiry.

Announcing the move, the Ministry of Defence said the inquiry would consider the article written by Major Eric Joyce for the Fabian Society.

Major Joyce, 36, wrote that the Armed Forces were dominated by "Victorian" class distinctions which prevented talented working-class recruits from becoming successful officers.

He had not sought permission from his commanding officer before publishing his criticisms and the ministry said yesterday that he should not have entered into public debate on political matters.

It said: "The Armed Forces are disciplined organisations. For very good reasons it has been a long-established convention that service personnel do not engage in public comment on matters of political controversy. The separation of the military and the political is an important democratic principle and is rightly enshrined in Queen's Regulations."

Major Joyce, a staff officer at the headquarters of the Army Training and Recruiting Agency, wrote that the Services were run by the

"Posh", a white, male, public school-educated elite which regarded working-class soldiers as little more than "use-and-discard" rank and file.

He urged the Services to confront class, race and sex discrimination, which he said was compromising military effectiveness.

Major Joyce was interviewed by a senior officer about the pamphlet on Tuesday. An Army spokesman had indicated this week that the ministry was keen to consider his criticisms and that he was unlikely to be disciplined.

His wife, Rosemary, said last night: "He is rather disappointed that he has been suspended, and that this cannot be resolved now. He is standing by what he said."

Ian Corfield, a spokesman for the Fabian Society, said the decision to suspend Major Joyce vindicated his criticisms. "We expected some action, but this is using a sledgehammer to crack a nut," he said. "This shows the need for independent representatives to voice concerns, as he suggested in his article."

Major Joyce, who was educated at a comprehensive school in Perth, joined the Army as a private in 1978. He left to go to university, and was commissioned after graduating.

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WSPA

Detective asks underworld to hand over boy's killer

Paul Wilkinson on a five-year-old's death and the ill feeling of neighbours towards his family

POLICE appealed to the criminal underworld yesterday to give up the killer who shot dead a five-year-old boy and wounded his stepfather in Bolton. Detectives are convinced that the murder of Dillon Hull and the wounding of John Bates, the boyfriend of his mother, Jane, was part of a feud between rival drug pushers, but they have played down suggestions of a "turf" war.

Before the shooting on Wednesday a shot was fired through the sitting-room window of Mr Bates's home in the Deane district of Bolton, Greater Manchester. Mr Bates reportedly told the glazier called in to repair the glass that he knew who was behind the incident.

Detective Superintendent Peter Ellis, leading the investi-

gation, said: "We are talking about people involved in illegal drugs activity. Where do these people draw the line? Do they tolerate the death of a five-year-old boy, shot dead playing in the street?"

Police were checking the killer's yellow D-registration Metro, which was abandoned close to the scene of the shooting on Wednesday evening. Its last registered owner sold it some time ago but police have discovered that it changed hands seven times in the past few weeks. It was sold to a Bolton scrapyard last week and bought for cash the day before the shooting.

Detectives are also awaiting the results of detailed scientific examination of the gold-coloured crash helmet worn by the killer to conceal his identity and which he dumped in a

garden as he fled. They are also studying closed-circuit television footage from a local business.

The killer was described as white, slim, 5 ft 10 in to 6 ft tall, with short, brown cropped hair which may be curly. He was wearing a green or purple anorak.

Dillon was born at Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn, on November 27, 1991. The space on the birth certificate for his father's name was left blank — and 24 hours after his son's death detectives had still not traced him.

When John Bates arrived in Jane Hull's life soon afterwards, things improved. Mr Bates became the father figure that the child lacked. But the semi-detached house in Blackburn was the subject of complaints about noisy late-night visitors, threats and violence. Everyone was glad when the family moved.

One neighbour, who did not wish to be named, said: "There were always people banging on their door. There were people there night and day. You could walk past at 8.30 on a Sunday morning and someone would be knocking them up, and it was the same late at night."

"Everyone was glad when they had to move out. There were always threats and there was often someone shouting the odds outside John and Jane's house."

Another neighbour said: "There were rumours that some heavies were looking for John to break his legs. Everyone was glad when they moved away. They only moved half a mile and when they got their new home they put a big wrought-iron gate on the front door."

The family first moved to Walsh Street, Blackburn, and at the beginning of this year they moved to Bolton to be closer to Mr Bates's family. He joined the Bates Brothers fruit and vegetable stall in Bolton Market. Danny Bates, his uncle manning the stall



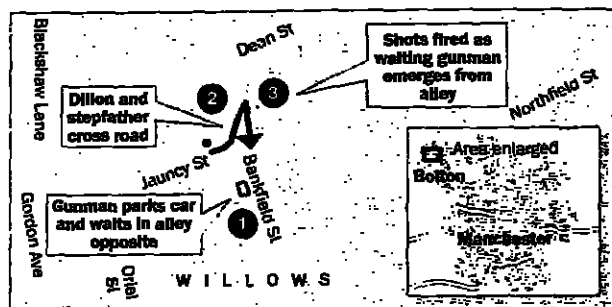
Jane Hull with her son, Dillon, a "lovely, lively boy who would be missed by all"

yesterday, said: "As far as I am concerned he was a good lad. He is a hard worker and a real gentleman. He was devoted to Dillon."

Three weeks ago Mrs Hull gave birth to another son. Her mother, Glenys, lives in the United States but most of her family still live in Blackburn. Bill Handforth, head teacher of Pikes Lane primary

school, where Dillon began last January, said: "My telephone never stopped ringing last night with teachers trying to come to terms with this awful, wicked act. He was a lovely, lively boy and we shall miss him. It is one of those things you only come across once in a lifetime. You

feel you have touched evil." Last night a mound of flowers was rising at the edge of the police cordon where Dillon was shot. One message, in a child's handwriting, read: "To my little friend, Dillon, Rest in Peace. Jo Smith." Another said simply: "One of God's children brutally murdered. God bless him."



Drugs wars find new battlefield

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BOLTON has become the latest battlefield for the drugs trade as street dealers and gangs protect their networks. The drugs wars began in London in the 1980s but in the 1990s the North West produced the biggest battlefields. In 1995 Greater Manchester Police achieved the second highest number of drugs convictions among the 43 forces in England and Wales, and Merseyside was fifth. Both forces number among the top five

forces for drug seizures. The small towns and suburbs around Manchester and Liverpool could hardly remain immune.

Bolton is known to drugs intelligence officers for links between its Asian community and heroin supplies from the Indian sub-continent. Local social workers acknowledge that Bolton has a heroin and amphetamine problem. Last year the town had 139 crimes related to drug use.

Simon

Continued from page 1 distinctive traits is the uniform, known as the Housey, which has hardly altered since Tudor times and has a strong claim to be the oldest in existence. It consists of a long blue coat, belted at the waist, with matching knee breeches, yellow socks and white knee bands.

Lord Simon declined yesterday to comment on the decision, which he reached with his wife, Sarah, on the allocation of the money. Another charity which will also be included in the charitable trust is the Stroke Association.

Lord Simon's father flew his first mission in November 1941 from a Welsh RAF base and went on to clock up 440 flying hours by the end of the Second World War. He was a flight sergeant.

He took part in dangerous missions providing cover for the landing in Normandy on D-Day and later flew sorties into the Low Countries. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Légion d'honneur for his escape from France and for his bravery as a Spitfire pilot.



D A G Simon as Head Grecian (head boy) at Christ's

Pollution pushes Earth towards its hottest year

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS predict that the Earth will have record-breaking temperatures this year and are linking the increase to pollution.

Researchers at the Meteorological Office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction said yesterday that on average the world's temperatures could, in 1997, be more than 0.7 degrees hotter than when records began in the late 19th century.

The Earth was at its hottest in 1995, followed by 1990, 1991, 1994, 1988, 1983, 1987, 1996, 1994, and 1989.

Dr Geoff Jenkins, head of the centre's climate prediction programme, said yesterday: "We are almost certainly going to exceed the average global temperatures of 1990. Indeed we are pretty much up there already. It now looks as if we will go higher, challenging the 1995 record year."

He said part of the increase will be due to El Niño, a cyclical climatic event in

which warm waters persist in the eastern Pacific off Peru. But Dr Jenkins said that El Niño had always been a part of the weather records, influencing higher or lower temperatures in certain years. To reach another record-breaking year, there had to be an additional cause.

He said that global warming, caused by pollution, could

Forecast 20

account for the higher temperatures of the 1990s. "Taking one year on its own is not significant. But this year will certainly continue the run of warm years we have seen in the 1990s."

The researchers calculate the average world-wide temperatures based on measurements of the sea and land. These are compared with a 30-year running average from 1960 to 1991. Average tempera-

tures in 1990 were 0.34C higher than average. The hottest year on record, 1995, was 0.38C higher than the 30-year average. This compares with a temperature of about minus 0.3C in the late 19th century, making 1995 about 0.7C higher than then.

"These temperature differences may sound like nothing," Dr Jenkins said. "But the temperature difference between the depths of the last Ice Age, about 20,000 years ago, and this century is about five degrees. The rise we expect over the next 100 years is three degrees."

Yesterday officials from more than 160 countries concluded preliminary negotiations in Bonn on curbing global warming. But America, under pressure from industrial interests, worked with Japan to block any agreement on reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, the main global-warming gas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unionist to confront Sinn Fein on TV

A leading Ulster Unionist is to confront a Sinn Fein leader for the first time on British television. Ken Maginnis, MP for Fermanagh and UUP security spokesman, will challenge Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Fein MP and chief negotiator, in a live debate on *Newsnight* on BBC2 next Tuesday.

Mr Maginnis said: "I have always felt it is incumbent upon Ulster Unionists to ensure that the IRA message does not go unchallenged." A Sinn Fein spokesman said Mr McGuinness was "not going in there with acrimony and recrimination. It's unfortunate it's taken as long as this for Unionists to be prepared to engage in a face-to-face debate." Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, condemned Mr Maginnis's move.

Belmarsh jail criticised

The treatment of hundreds of offenders, including high-risk inmates, held in a top-security jail is today described as "seriously inadequate" by Sir David Ramsbottom, the Chief Inspector of Prisons. He found that security routines to prevent prisoners escaping from Belmarsh prison in southeast London took priority over all aspects of the regime, and some prisoners alleged they were only out of their cells for 15 minutes a day.

Party over for founder

The leader and founder of the anti-European UK Independence Party stood down yesterday. Alan Sked, an academic, said that he had been offered more teaching work at the London School of Economics and leading the party had become a full-time job. He said he had also been influenced by the result of the Usbridge by-election, in which his party polled only 39 votes, a tenth as many as the Official Monster Raving Loony Party.

Immigration law 'unfair'

The United Nations refugee agency has demanded that Ireland scrap the emergency legislation put through parliament five weeks ago to curb rising illegal immigration. Officials can now refuse entry to non-EU citizens whose papers are not in order. A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said the law was unfair to genuine asylum seekers travelling on false papers.

Rethink for NVQs

A shake-up in the system of National Vocational Qualifications has been announced to make them more relevant. The reforms will cut out jargon and bureaucracy and make NVQs more rigorous and credible, the National Council for Vocational Qualifications said. A new Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will be set up to oversee the 900 qualifications available.

Student in death fall

A student who dreaded getting his A-level results fell to his death from a multi-storey car park in Nottingham. Tony Dwyer, 18, of West Bridgford, was filmed by security cameras as he walked to the edge of the 100ft-tall building. The tragedy happened a week before he was due to receive the grades which would decide whether he went to university. *See panic, page 9*

Pilots suspended

Two Britannia Airways pilots have been suspended on full pay for an investigation of a stewardess's claim that she saw the captain's wife at the controls of a Boeing 737 en route from Palma to East Midlands. Britannia forbids anyone but the captain to sit in his seat. Early indications are that the aircraft, flying over France, was on automatic pilot and that the captain's wife was not touching the controls.

Soldiers deny assaults

Five British soldiers charged with assaulting a group of English tourists in Cyprus each pleaded not guilty to three counts of assault. Roger Bell, 26, Tim Carter, 20, Steven Wolstencroft, 26, Steven Girvan, 20, and Stuart Spencer, 20, denied causing grievous bodily harm to Barry Ford and Shane Bell and of attacking Claire Harbour, 22. The court in Larnaca ordered them to appear again on Monday.

Driving into trouble

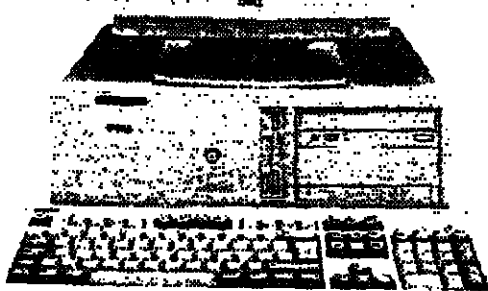
Maureen Rees, celebrated as the worst driver on BBC's *Driving School*, ran out of petrol in her new car in Cardiff after bearing that she had landed a part in a television show about car maintenance. Mrs Rees, who spent £6,000 learning to drive and passed her test at the seventh try, will present a slot in the *Really Useful Show* for BBC1. Her Lada Samara 1300 was pushed to a nearby petrol station.

Times website milestone

The *Times* and *The Sunday Times* on the Internet have become the first national newspapers to receive an audit certificate from ABC/electronic, the UK Internet auditors. The site recorded more than 7.8 million web page "hits" during May, the largest of any site in Britain to date. The websites can be reached at <http://www.the-times.co.uk> or <http://www.sunday-times.co.uk>

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Princess linked with Al Fayed's divorced son

British tabloid newspapers join battle to buy 'romantic' royal holiday photographs, reports Emma Wilkins

DIANA, Princess of Wales, arrives in the former battlefields of Bosnia today as British tabloid newspapers engage in hostilities over photographs of her recent holiday with Dodi Fayed, the son of Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods.

The pictures, taken by a paparazzo in Sardinia earlier this week, are said to show the Princess enjoying "romantic" moments with Mr Fayed and are attracting fierce bidding from rival Fleet Street newspapers offering sums between £300,000 and £500,000. *Paris Match*, the French magazine, was said to have secured the continental magazine rights for a similar sum.

There was intense speculation last night that the new relationship could be the Princess's first romance since the unfortunate entanglement with Capt James Hewitt. The prospect of Mohamed Al Fayed becoming the step-grandfather to the future King while he remains denied an application for British citizenship was attracting particular attention from royal commentators.

The Princess, who first met Mr Fayed, 41, at a polo match in Windsor ten years ago, begins her fact-finding mission with an American landmine charity in Sarajevo today. She is expected to meet disabled groups in Travnik and Zenica during the two-day trip.

While her office at Kensington Palace declined to comment on the latest disclosures, the Princess's friendship appeared to have the blessing of her stepmother, Raine, Countess of Chamberlain. "I love the whole family. I've known them all for 15 years. I adore them all," said the countess, who was impressed by Mr Fayed's "immaculate manners".

Mr Fayed, a divorced Hollywood film producer whose previous loves have included



Marie Helvin



Brooke Shields



Mimi Rogers

Brooke Shields, Marie Helvin and Mimi Rogers, has a self-effacing nature despite his playboy image. When staying at his home in Mayfair — his other houses are in Los Angeles and New York — Mr Fayed prefers driving his Mini Cooper

around London to his Ferrari.

His marriage in the ski resort of Vail, in Colorado, in 1986, to American model Suzanne Gregard ended in divorce eight months later. The divorce settlement was rumoured to be £1.3 million, including jewellery and a new Rolls Royce car.

Afterwards he said: "I think my one marriage has put me off the institution for life." He had earlier been briefly engaged, in the mid-1980s, to the Iranian Linda Aterzaedh.

He has also been linked with the Duke of York's former girlfriend, Koo Stark, Britt Ekland, the actress Valerie Perrine, and Frank Sinatra's daughter, Tina.

A friend of Mr Fayed said the Princess had greatly enjoyed an earlier holiday with Mr Fayed and his father in St Tropez. "It's the second time they've been on holiday together in a matter of weeks. Quite frankly, they are young, free and over 21 and I think she could do a lot worse than Dodi. He's got a lot going for him — he's kind, generous and a very relaxed person to be with. When she got back from St Tropez she said it was the best holiday she had ever had."

The trip last month attracted some controversy because of Mr Al Fayed's role in the "Cash for Questions" affair.

The friendship between the Fayed and Spencer families began when Mohamed Al Fayed was introduced to the late Earl Spencer, the Princess's father. The pair became firm friends and soon Raine, then the Countess Spencer, was sending her cooks from Althorp for training at the Ritz in Paris, which is owned by Mr Al Fayed.

Although the Princess's name has been linked in the past with Will Carling, the former England rugby captain and Oliver Hoare, an art dealer, her most recent male



Dodi Fayed first met the Princess at a polo match at Windsor ten years ago

friendship has been with Dr Hasnat Khan, whose work as a heart surgeon fascinates the Princess.

When a tabloid newspaper recently published a story claiming the Princess had enjoyed candlelit dinners with

Dr Khan in a Buckinghamshire restaurant, her office was quick to issue a public denial of the story. After the publication of yesterday's newspapers under headlines like "Dix New Man is Al Fayed's Son" and "Dix Secret Hol with Harrods Hunk Dodi" her office remained silent.

Mr Fayed, whose uncle is Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi Arabian arms dealer, holds joint Egyptian and United Arab Emirates citizenship. While doing his national service for the UAE defence forces, he was briefly seconded to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

When in London, he helps out at his father's shop in the product development department

and was yesterday keeping a low profile behind his desk at 100 Brompton Road — opposite the Knightsbridge store. He is a director of Harrods and is due to attend the opening match of the season at Fulham Football Club on Saturday. The club was bought recently by his father.

Dodi Fayed spends most of his time in Los Angeles, where he runs Allied Stars, a film production company. One of his closest friends is Roland Joffé, the director of *The Mission* and *The Killing Fields*.

His first success was *Chariots of Fire*, which earned the production team an Oscar. The statuette currently sits in Mr Al Fayed's office.

Prince is saddened by death of volunteers

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE Prince of Wales was said to be deeply saddened yesterday by the deaths of two young volunteers on a Prince's Trust scheme in Orkney in which he had taken a personal interest.

Derek Taylor, 20, and his friend, whose parents asked for him not to be named, were crushed to death by a two-tonne slab of concrete while they were helping to repair a collapsed sea wall on the remote island of North Ronaldsay. Both men were from Dundee.

The accident happened on Wednesday but it took rescuers seven hours working under floodlights to recover the bodies. The Prince is being kept informed of an investigation into the deaths.

Prince's Trust officials from London and Edinburgh flew to the scene of the accident yesterday as did health and safety officials. A spokesman for the Prince's Trust said: "This is a very, very great tragedy and our Scottish and national staff are going up to the scene first thing. We will work and co-operate with the emergency services in every way humanly possible to establish the facts of what happened."

The two men were among

accident scene posed huge logistical problems for the rescuers. Firefighters had to be flown there from the Orkney capital of Kirkwall on a helicopter normally used by coastguards in the Shetland Islands. Police also had to be flown in, with heavy lifting gear and floodlights.

The work to repair the wall began after the worst storms to hit the island since the 1930s demolished 3,500 metres of it in 1993. The small community did not have the manpower to repair the wall and when the Prince visited to inspect the damage last year he pledged to send a team of his volunteers, who have returned every year since.

At the family's home in Dundee, Mr Taylor's brother Neil said: "We are devastated, we are still trying to come to terms with this." Mr Taylor worked at the outdoor activity centre Teen Ranch in Perthshire. Yesterday the ranch director Bob Ockenden said: "He was a very enthusiastic young man. He loved Dundee Football Club and we would often had banter about rugby and football."

"Derek was a tremendous

6 People on the island regard the volunteers as part of their family?

help to me and he could have taught my other staff a lot even though he had learning difficulties. I am very sad to hear of what has happened."

Mr Taylor was also a keen tennis player, and had been a member of the Nigel Watson Tennis School in Invergowrie, near Dundee, "since he was six. The school cancelled last night's matches as a mark of respect."

The school's owner, Nigel Watson, said he was a good club player and a member of both the men's and mixed doubles teams. "Derek was a regular attendee here. He was great fun and very popular. He is going to be very sadly missed."

George Sturrock, the deputy rector of Menzieshill High School, in Dundee, which Derek attended, said: "He was very active in the swimming and water polo clubs at school."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Vicar held abroad on sex charges

A Church of England vicar was last night in custody in Romania, accused of sexual relations with an underage boy. The Rev Michael Taylor, 34, vicar of St David's in Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, was allegedly found in a Bucharest flat with a 14-year-old boy by police on Tuesday. If convicted, he could face up to seven years' jail.

Boy aged 14 shot

A 14-year-old boy from Fulham was in a critical condition with gunshot wounds after an argument with other youths on a west London street. A 16-year-old boy was arrested at the scene.

River deaths

Police investigating the drowning of two girls in the Wharfe near Otley, Yorkshire, are sending a file to the Crown Prosecution Service on the woman who was with them, Wendy Dodd, 40.

Glue inquest

The provisional cause of death for Christopher Smith, 7, was intoxication from inhaling tyre adhesive, the opening of a York inquest was told yesterday. The hearing was adjourned.

CORRECTION

Michael Shrimpton, the barrister who took part in a Conservative press conference at the Uxbridge by-election (report, July 26), has never been a member of the Socialist Workers' Party.

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Last Cornish tin mine admits defeat

The closure of South Crofty will end an era of British trading that began 3,000 years ago, writes

Tim Jones

THE end of 3,000 years of Cornish tin-mining was announced yesterday, with the news that the last working mine, at South Crofty, will close by the end of the year.

South Crofty, once the largest tin mine in the world, will cease production over the next six months, with the loss of 270 jobs. Its miles of tunnels will be allowed to flood.

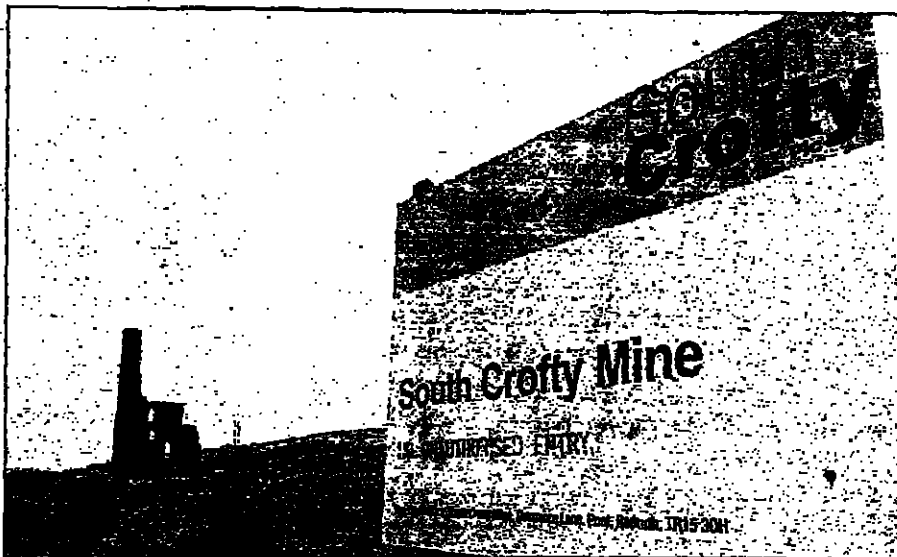
Miners wept yesterday as the decision was announced to staff at an emergency meeting. The managers of the mine, near Camborne, blamed the decline in world tin prices and the strength of the pound.

Prices have now fallen to £3,200 a tonne, far below the £4,000 a tonne minimum needed to keep the mine open. Whereas Cornish tin was hard-won from deep mines, often extending far beneath the sea, most of the world's tin is now produced in open-pit mines in countries such as Indonesia and Bolivia, where wages are low and extraction far easier.

In an area of high unemployment, many of the miners doubt they will work again. David Giddings, the managing director, said: "I realise the history of tin-mining in Cornwall and this is a dreadful day. It was a depressing decision to have to make, but it was the only option."

"The mine does not have a commercial future. We have to close it now because if we go on losing money we will not have enough cash left to meet redundancy payments."

George Trevas, 51, who worked at the mine for 14 years, said: "I might never



Cornish mining, below, cannot compete with opencast conditions abroad. Its industry peaked last century, right, when it employed more than 30,000 people



work again unless I go abroad. There are hundreds looking for jobs in this area and I might have to go to the goldfields of South Africa to find similar work."

David Williamson, one of the directors who had fought to raise capital to keep Crofty going, said: "I could see the headgear of the mine from my house and I used to walk past it every day as a little boy."

The closure comes in spite of efforts by the local com-

munity and the miners to keep the mine open. Three years ago, 1,500 small investors, including the miners, offered to buy £500,000 of shares in an effort to ensure its future. At the same time, the mine was taken over by the Canadian-based Crew Group of companies, which has invested about £6.3 million in it.

Candy Atherton, the local Labour MP, said last night: "The livelihoods of so many

people and their families depend on the mine. It is a very sad day for the whole of Cornwall and it is almost impossible to express the anguish that will be felt right across the county."

Tin has been mined in Cornwall since pre-Roman times. The Phoenicians traded tin between Britain and Spain as early as 1100 BC. There is evidence that proper mining began on the South Crofty site around 1592, al-

though the first deep shaft was not sunk until 1710. By the 1870s, tin had replaced copper as the county's biggest mineral product and mine-shafts were being driven below 1,200ft.

During the last century, more than 30,000 people were employed in more than 400 mines. Some of them were small, one-man operations, but others became so well-known that their names tripped off the tongue where-

er miners would meet. There was Ting Tang, Geevor, Wheal Jane, Wellington and others which formed the backbone of a community that was remote, proud and God-fearing.

The expertise learnt in the industry was passed to future generations by the Camborne School of Mines, still the best-known mining college in the world.

The mining life was at times romantic, but it was

never easy. In the 1890s, a huge slump caused by the discovery of tin in Australia drove thousands of Cornishmen abroad, many to work in the mines being developed in Australia and South Africa.

Perhaps the only legacy of the once-proud industry will be the Cornish pastie, which once contained at opposite ends sweet and savoury fillings so that miners, hundreds of feet below ground, could have a balanced meal.

HISTORY OF TIN

□ Tin developed 250 million years ago when molten granite pushed to the Earth's surface and reacted with other rock, carrying tin oxides.

□ Cornwall has produced two million tonnes of tin, most brought to the surface in the 19th century.

□ The thriving mines attracted other industries to Cornwall. Years before George Stephenson, Richard Trevithick drove a steam-powered locomotive in Camborne.

□ In tin's heyday in the 19th century, there were 400 mines in Cornwall, employing 30,000 people.

□ At one point the United Downs complex was the greatest source of copper and tin on the planet.

□ Smoking was allowed in most mines, as there were no dangerous gases.

□ Arsenic and base metals used to reduce a miner's life expectancy dramatically. Many died after only five years underground.

□ In recent times, people were persuaded to buy shares in a tin-mining company after it was claimed that ancient laws would make them exempt from the poll tax.

□ Until 1870 Cornwall and Malaya monopolised tin production. The discovery of tin in Australia caused the industry's first recession.

□ Nearly 200,000 Cornishmen emigrated in search of a more settled life away from the booms and slumps of tin mining.

□ The world market for tin is stable. It is used for cans and as a chemical in industrial processes.

□ Modern production is concentrated largely in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil and Bolivia.

□ The tin price collapsed in 1985, forcing the closure of mines across Europe. The development of the aluminium can did not help.

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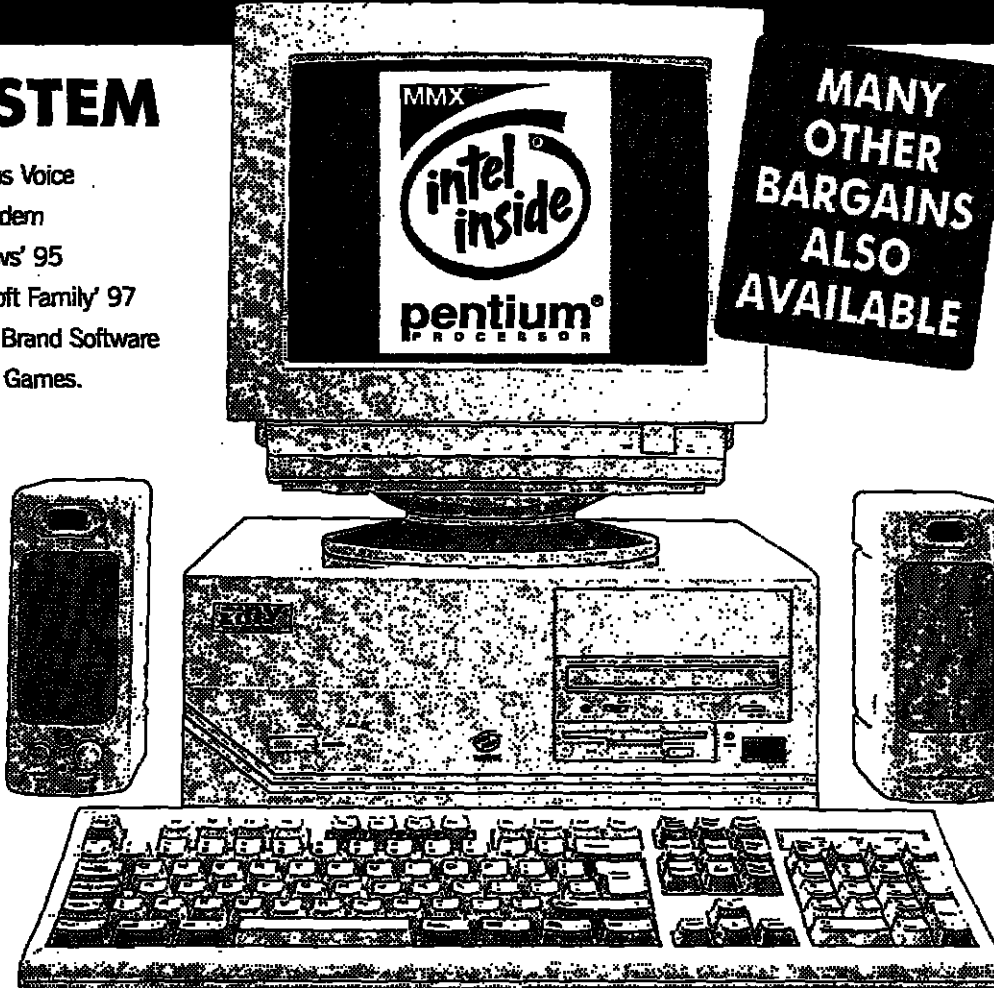
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Fall in complaints fails to satisfy rail watchdog

RAIL watchdogs heavily criticised the standard of services yesterday despite having recorded a fall in the number of complaints from passengers for the first time in more than 15 years.

The Central Rail Users Consultative Committee received 9,753 complaints in the year to April 1997, down 16 per cent from a record 11,640 the previous year. But in the South there was a 49 per cent rise and the committee suggested that the total number might have fallen because people had become disillusioned and could not be bothered to protest about poor services.

In its annual report, the committee said that passengers were still having to put up with too many cancellations, delays and breakdowns. David Bertram, the chairman, said that punctuality was improving but was still inconsistent. "What the passenger wants to see is consistency and improvement today — not tomorrow, not next year or the year after that. Until we see that, I don't see any move

Private train operators are accused of being slow to improve their poor services, reports Polly Newton

towards a feel-good factor on the railways."

Overcrowding was a problem, particularly in the South East but also on long-distance services. Mr Bertram said: "We are already bulging at the seams and it could get even more serious if new trains are not delivered. Why are there so many trains lying idle?"

In the South, where the increase in complaints was highest, the train operators include South West Trains, which had to cancel up to 200 services a week earlier this year because of staff shortages. In London, the number of complaints rose by 31 per cent and in eastern England by 18 per cent.

The biggest reductions in complaints were in the North West (down 43 per cent) and western England (down 40 per cent). The committee said that

figures for the first quarter of 1997-98 would indicate whether last year's total fall was significant.

The cause of the biggest single group of complaints in 1996-97 was the late running of trains, followed by the quality of information provided at stations, unreliability and cancellations and overcrowding.

There was a sharp increase in the number of people who said they did not feel safe at stations or on trains, and a rise of 29 per cent in the number of complaints about telephone inquiry services — despite the successful introduction of an efficient, single-number national service.

The committee had harsh words for the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising, which oversaw privatisation, for failing to ensure that service charters after the sell-off

matched those of British Rail. Mr Bertram said: "The Passenger's Charter is now a long-running problem, which we consider is the result of promises to passengers being broken."

He said that most passengers, especially commuters, had seen little change since the privatisations. Although the total number of complaints had fallen by 16 per cent year-on-year, the report showed that the drop in the second six-month period — after every rail company had been sold — was only 2 per cent.

Mr Bertram said: "For many passengers, their service is still lacking in attention to many details such as catering, the right type of rolling stock or accurate information." It was "amazing" how few passengers knew about new fares and services.

"Privatisation has led to some improvement, but some franchisees are going to have to move much more quickly. I personally don't think we are seeing anything yet in terms of change as a result of the break-up of BR."



Mrs Pollard in hospital yesterday. Her husband was killed and she suffered serious facial injuries in the attack

Doctors operate on pastor's widow

By A STAFF REPORTER

DOCTORS yesterday praised the courage of a woman whose church pastor husband was beaten to death as they returned from delivering aid to Romania and Hungary.

Staff at the hospital in the Hungarian town of Nyiregyhaza said 55-year-old Sovalleare Pollard had tried to save the life of her 62-year-old husband Michael after bandits attacked them as they slept in their camper van early on Tuesday.

Mrs Pollard was yesterday undergoing surgery to reconstruct her face after she was savagely beaten with an iron bar by the bandits, who robbed the couple three times and escaped with £50.

Dr Joe Nemeth, of Nyiregyhaza Hospital, said: "Her first thought was for the supplies to reach the children in the Romanian and Hungarian orphanages. You could

imagine some people going to pot, but she has not. Even a few hours after the incident she was composed and able to give police a detailed description of the attackers."

The couple, from Shipley, near Bradford, were on their 19th trip to Eastern Europe, taking food, medicine, toys and clothing to orphanages. Mr Pollard was a pastor at Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Baildon, west Yorkshire.

Hungarian police have arrested three people, who have allegedly confessed to the attack. Mrs Pollard's children, Rebecca, 24, Tamas, 20, and Andrew, 18, were due to visit her yesterday after flying to Budapest. Mrs Pollard was said to be in stable condition and out of intensive care. She should be able to return home in a few days if surgery was successful, Dr Nemeth said.

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Woman tells inquest how she fought with knifeman in home

'Avon lady' cannot recall how caller was stabbed, reports Richard Duce

A BANK manager's wife told an inquest yesterday that she could not remember how a man with "wide, staring eyes" was stabbed to death as she fought with him at her home six months ago.

Wendy Hertz, who works as an Avon lady, said she pleaded with the normally shy and retiring David Stuchbery as he tore at her clothes: "Why are you doing this? He was still staring into my eyes and said slowly and mechanically 'I don't know'."

"My first image of him was when he raised the knife. It was a total contrast to how he had been before. I felt a slicing sensation. I felt blood. I said 'Look at my hand' and he appeared to laugh."

Mrs Hertz said she saw the knife lying on the floor as he tried to pull down her trousers. "The handle was in my hand. I couldn't grip the knife properly. My hand was covered in blood. I don't know how I lost grip of the knife."

The next thing she remembered was him standing over her with the knife, saying "You're going to get it, you're going to get it," the inquest in Folkestone, Kent, was told.

Police believe Stuchbery planned "a lethal sexual attack" in which Mrs Hertz would have been killed to protect his identity. Instead Mrs Hertz appears to have wrestled the knife from him

and Stuchbery died from a stab wound to the heart. Recording a verdict of accidental death, the Shepway Coroner, Brian Smith, said it had been impossible to determine who had been holding the knife when the fatal blow was inflicted.

Mrs Hertz, 36, whose husband is a bank manager with NatWest, had just dropped her two sons off at school when Stuchbery, 49, called at her home in Densole, near Folkestone, on February 4. He was a regular customer who often bought aftershave.

Stuchbery, married to a school teacher, had failed to turn up for work as a cleaner with Eurotunnel that morning and instead appears to have hidden in his garage, probably drinking brandy. After calling at the Hertz's house and talking briefly about Avon business, he suddenly pushed the door shut when she attempted to show him out.

Mrs Hertz said she saw he was holding a knife close to her neck. "He said 'Come on, Come on'. He tried to kiss me on my mouth and I turned away. I was trying to keep the knife away from me. He put his thumb or finger in my mouth and I started to choke."

She said the struggle moved first down the hallway and then back towards the front door where she was pushed on to the foot of the stairs with Stuchbery standing above her. At one stage she had managed to get hold of the black-handled flick knife but he had taken it back.

"I pushed out with my right foot towards his groin and I think I made contact. The next thing I was aware of we were both in the hallway. He was lying face down and his hands were in front of him. He wasn't moving."

Mrs Hertz, who also worked for meals on wheels, said she had reached across Stuchbery into a plastic bag he had with him. She found a drinks bottle and hit him over the back of the head before running to a neighbour's house and raising the alarm.



Wendy Hertz is escorted by a police officer as she arrives at the inquest. The coroner praised her courage



Stuchbery: police say he planned a lethal attack

Payout for white victim of council's race policy

By a Staff Reporter

A WHITE man who lost his job to make way for a black woman is expected to receive tens of thousands of pounds in compensation from a Labour council. Lawyers for both sides were negotiating the settlement yesterday.

William Biginton, 37, won a claim of race discrimination against Lewisham Council, southeast London, at an industrial tribunal in January. He had given evidence that white men were going out of fashion under borough policies of positive discrimination towards women and ethnic minorities.

Mr Biginton, whose wife is

Asian, said that in 1994 his boss, Graham Wills, told him that he was to swap his £26,500 job in food hygiene with Donna Dyer, a black environmental health officer. Mr Wills was alleged to have said: "Look at it from the manager's point of view, Bill. We have a black female whose career is being blocked. What will the council members think?"

Mr Biginton was moved to the housing department. He protested that this would ruin his promotion chances. The council claimed that the move was part of a restructuring programme designed to broaden the experience of all staff, which had disgruntled

black and white employees. However, the tribunal at Croydon upheld a complaint of racial, but not sexual, discrimination. The tribunal also expressed astonishment at the length of the council's lengthy documents on fighting racism and sexism in the workplace, which ran to 40 pages.

A hearing was to decide a final settlement figure yesterday, but the chairman was ill. Legal sources said that the compensation was expected to run well into five figures.

Mr Biginton, of Bromley, southeast London, was still working at the council in the housing department until two months ago, when he quit.

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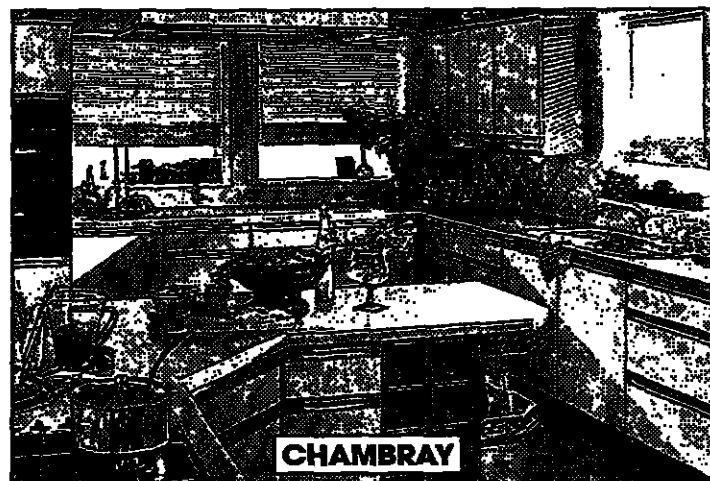
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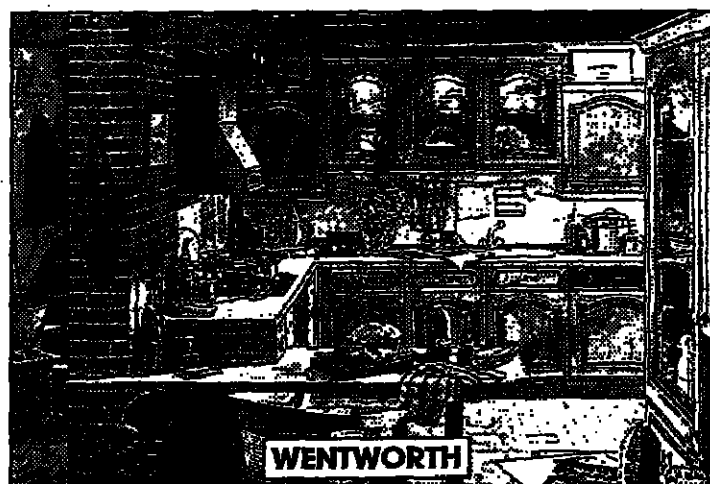
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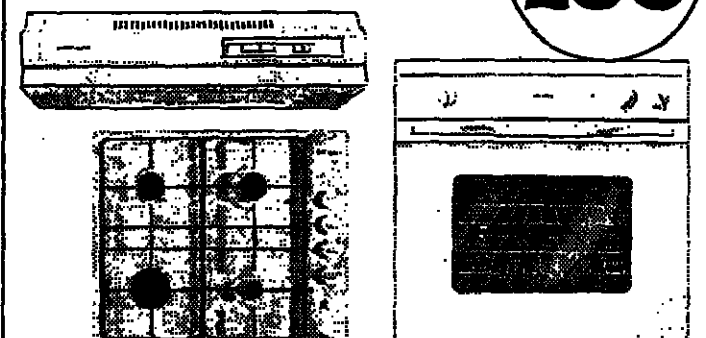
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The ruthless reign of King Cotton

Russell Jenkins revisits the dark, airless mills where Victorian entrepreneurs made fortunes and children lost their childhoods

Reformers in the 19th century reserved their most heartrending prose for the plight of children herded into factories to work from dawn to dusk for the profit of uncaring bosses.

Nowhere is this image — conjured up by Charles Dickens in his sulphurous description of Coketown in *Hard Times* — more graphic than in the cotton mills of Lancashire, where the chimneys, towering over communities to this day, remain a potent symbol of the power and influence of the owners over the lives of ordinary people.

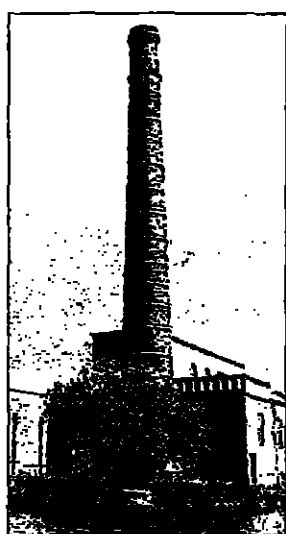
The making of cotton cloth was the first of Britain's manufacturing industries to become factory-based, and the transition from the weaver's cottage to cavernous, airless sheds was painful. Workers, squeezed between thunderously noisy looms, stood in serried ranks, doomed to keep pace with the diabolic speed of the machinery age.

In March 1818 the cotton spinners of Warrington wrote to Robert Peel in the hope that the forthcoming Factory Bill would relieve the lot of working children. They outlined an appalling regimen in which "poor children, many under eight years of age," were



blouses smiling shyly at the camera. Powered by Victorian energy and ingenuity, the domestic cotton industry was clothing the world and even the workers saw some of the benefits.

It is easy to imagine the working population of Burnley, Lancashire, trudging up the hill from the town to Harle Syke with potted-meat butties in their lunch tins to arrive in time for the seven o'clock hooter announcing the start of another ten-hour shift at Queen Street Mill. Queen Street Manufacturing Company Limited was founded in 1894 as a workers' co-operative with £20,000 capital in £5 shares. At its height, it boasted almost 1,500 Lancashire looms turning out "grey" cloth at relentless speed. It closed 90 years later, in 1982, only months after the company secretary assured workers that the Victorian technology would keep the factory going well into the next century. It remains Britain's, and possibly the world's, last steam-powered cotton-weaving shed in full working condition. To walk past the chimney, through its doors into the tape-measuring room, the drawing-in room and on to the weaving shed is to experience what it



Queen's Street mill, now a working museum

must have been like for the 250 weavers who worked there in its heyday.

A 500 horse power tandem compound condensing steam engine, a coal guzzler once called Prudence but renamed Peace after Armistice Day, turns the driving shafts which travel the length of the building and power hundreds of Lancashire looms made by Harling and Todd of Burnley. The resulting cacophony of moving metal, wood and leather made communicating, other than in exaggerated sign language and lip-reading, an impossibility.

"The lips are the first thing I look at," said Brian Holden, who began work as a weaver and rose to become a tacker (mechanic). "I've still got ringing in the ears. A lot of people went deaf. My mother and father and grandfather were all deaf. Ear plugs hadn't been thought of."

It was uncomfortably hot in the summer with the windows white-washed and shut tight. Women wore black stockings and black

pinnies and men waistcoats, caps and braces. They earned according to the amount, and more importantly the quality, of cloth they produced.

They watched the shuttle travel back and forth across the loom for ten hours a day, anxiously making sure that the supplies of yarn (buns) never ran out, spoiling the cloth. "It was a lot of extra work if you didn't watch your cop buttons," said Mr Holden.

Workers would get half an hour at 8am to eat their jam butties for breakfast and another hour at lunchtime to pop home for the



In trouble at mill: Sylvia Pankhurst's painting of a young girl in a cotton factory. Punishments were common

main meal of the day, probably cooked by a grandparent. It was not unknown for workers to cook their black puddings in the communal tea kettle. Any misdemeanour, from only marks on the cloth to straying into the wrong part of the shed, was likely to attract fines.

One Queen Street Mill weaver, who began work there aged 12, recorded her experiences. She recalled: "You would start off tenting or learning. Your mistress would teach you how to weave. My mistress was a bad un. She used to say, 'Sit on that weft tin,' and she'd give me a bunch of

thumps to practise tying knots and I'd practise skewering cobs. If she thought I was bad she'd clock my knuckles with a shuttle. One time my knuckles came right up and my mother came up to the mill to have a word with her."

While her mistress ate her breakfast, she would have to clean and sweep under the looms. However, by the age of 17, she was given four looms to work.

"You had to look after your own loom," she said. "You'd to oil it and keep it clean. Sometimes oil would drip onto the cloth. If you didn't get it off quick you was fined for oil

marks which you would have to mark with a red tassel. Same for other faults in the cloth."

"Warehouse boy would call you into the warehouse with 'Wanted in't warehouse'. Then you'd be sure to get fined for something or other. Anything from threepence to a shilling, depending on cloth-looker."

Queen Street Mill, Harle Syke, Burnley. Open until 30 September, Tues, Wed and Fri 10.30am-5pm, Thurs 10.30am to 8pm. Adults £2, children and senior citizens £1.00. Tel 01282-412555.

Newfangled machine put dying firms on the road to riches

BY KEVIN EASON

FOR the few dozen Victorians who stood at the roadside to watch the choking, wheezing contraption wobble down the cobbled street, it must have seemed an amazing technological leap.

The first British-made car struggled out of a factory in Coventry 100 years ago, the start of an explosion of investment on the scale of a motoring Klondike. The Victorian talent for exploiting new technology was never more evident than when a generation of engineers uncovered the potential of the internal combustion engine



The RAC began life as the Automobile Club

to replace the dying industries. In the great industrial cities of Coventry and Birmingham, firms built fortunes making and exporting sewing machines, ribbons, watches and bicycles. But a sales slump and cheaper foreign competition drove men such as Herbert Austin, who had been working for the Wolsley Sheep Shearing Company, cyclemaker Thomas Humber, the Lancashire brothers and John Kemp Starley to investigate the future of the car.

Starley introduced his revolutionary safety bicycles from 1884, using a badge which he also put on his first cars: Rover, the only British marque to survive from the Victorian era until now.

However, it was Gottlieb Daimler, the German engineer, who was the greatest influence. Frederick Simms, the founding father of the motor industry who went on to start the Royal Automobile Club, bought the rights to manufacture Daimler engines in 1893, then sold them to a consortium headed by Harry J. Lawson who formed the British Motor Syndicate, setting up in 1896 in a disused cotton mill.

The former Coventry Spinning and Weaving Company was renamed the Motor Mills, which, Lawson boasted with typical Victorian confidence, was "the biggest autocar factory in the world", with 200 workers.

By then, the motor car had royal approval. John Scott-Montagu, taking the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, for a ride around South Kensington in his Daimler. Legislators were so encouraged that they abolished the Red Flag Act, which had limited top speeds to 4mph and decreed that cars should be preceded by a man with a warning flag.

However, it was not until 1897 that Lawson's complex assembly lines rolled and the first Daimler took to the road. It was a rickety but inspiring start within months, companies were springing up.

Though the first British car was launched with the name of a German on its badge, Victorian Britons were quick to take a lead. Inside a decade, thousands of workers were switched from the cotton mills and cycle workshops to make cars, and the names, which became famous around the world, tumbled into life: Hillman, Singer, Wolsley, Humber, Riley and Standard among them.



ON MONDAY

Servants, sex and shopping — and the liberating influence of bicycles. The world of Victorian woman

Men who roofed the world

Tim Jones on the harsh life endured by workers in the North Wales slate mines



Quarrymen splitting and shaping the slates in 1860

The 19th century scars on what was the South Wales coalfield have by now largely been erased. But in the north the legacy of a past industrial age remains to deface the beauty of Snowdonia.

At least ten tons of waste were quarried for every ton of finished slate produced, and the blue slurry runs down mountain sides like blood from a wounded leviathan.

The Welsh call this part of their land Eryri, the domain of eagles, but for many slate workers that was a cruel joke. For in winter, as they toiled to roof the world, some would not see daylight for months — far less an eagle or even a raven.

The industrial revolution increased the demand for slate. Thatch or wooden shingles were no good for the rows of houses that ironmasters, coalmasters and other masters needed for their workers, so parts of the great mountains of Gwalla were ripped away or burrowed into, nowhere more so than in Blaenau Ffestiniog and Dinorwig.

By 1850, Dinorwig was one of the two largest slate quarries in the world. It was of the open terrace

type, with the rock being extracted from giant steps up the mountain. Blaenau was very different because it was really a mine where huge caverns were hewn, one on top of the other, deep inside the mountain. At the Llechwedd mine there are 16 such caverns, some of which can be visited.

Both sites provided brutal environments, but at least the men of Dinorwig could breathe fresh air. The caverns of Blaenau were coal-

black, lit only by the candles the quarrymen had to buy from their pay. They stuck them in their primitive helmets with clay grubbed from a nearby river.

Quarrymen also had to contend with dreadful illness, for silicosis was not generally recognised. A doctor at Blaenau Ffestiniog, studying records for 1870, wrote: "I became convinced that slate dust is not merely harmless, but beneficial." Men left home with tea that

they left to stew for hours over a candle, and some medics became convinced that this brew was to blame for the lung rot that left the workers wheezing for breath.

The quarrymen practised a bargaining system in which a small group would negotiate a rate for working a stretch of rock face for a month. This enabled the owners to pit team against team, holding down wages and fuelling jealousy. Even so, by the standards of the time, the slateworkers were not particularly exploitative and considered themselves paternalistic. After all, they paid far more than men could earn on the land.

So it was not surprising that when their workers sought greater independence by forming, in 1874, *Undeb Chwarelwyr Gogledd Cymru* (The North Wales Quarrymen's Union) relations deteriorated. There followed a series of disputes that in 1900 resulted in a strike that brought the slate mining community to its knees.

□ Llechwedd slate caverns, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd. Open daily, 10.5-15. Mine tours £6.25 adults, £4.40 children, £5.75 OAPs. Tel 01766-830306.



Keeping the tradition alive: a slate worker in 1962

LUST

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Relax - Peter and John are minding the shop for Tony

The Minister without Portfolio can shrug off taunts from the Tories, he tells Nicholas Wood

PETER MANDELSON is clearly rather enjoying himself while the Prime Minister is on holiday. Relaxing in his elegant office just down the corridor of power from 10 Downing Street, the Minister without Portfolio insists that he is just "minding the shop".

Eager young officials fill in and out bringing him tea and urgent messages. And amid the bleak modern art decorating the walls, a cartoon on the mantelpiece of his grandfather Herbert Morrison, minister during the war and after Labour's 1945 landslide, reminds him that winning an election is only a beginning.

Tony Blair is back from Tuscany next week. Meanwhile, John Prescott, the real Deputy Prime Minister, is beavering away unnoticed at his outpost in Victoria and Cabinet ministers have been reportedly told not to worry as they head off for the sun. John and Peter are in charge.

Well, not exactly. Mr Mandelson is quick to put the record straight in his interview with *The Times*. "If it gives confidence to the rest of the Government to take a

well-earned holiday in the knowledge that John Prescott and I are at home minding the shop, that seems to me very sensible.

"It means hard work for John and me. We are a good double act."

He goes on to explain that, thanks to modern communications, the Prime Minister remains in charge, wherever he is, whenever it is.

Of course, a few little local difficulties have blown up since Mr Blair headed for Chiantishire: the loss of the Uxbridge by-election; renewed controversy over Lord Simon of Highbury's shares; and the Foreign Secretary's

decision to leave his wife for his Commons secretary.

Mr Mandelson has not so much been minding the shop as conducting a fire sale on the pavement.

Last weekend, he was hardly off the nation's television screens as he hosed down incendiary headlines and invited the media to look elsewhere for excitement - most notably at Chris Patten's time in Hong Kong or plans for the royal yacht. The Tories hit back with the charge of media manipulation.

And today, Mr Mandelson will be back in the limelight, joining forces with Mr Prescott at a Westminster news conference to extol the achievements of Labour's first 100 days in power.

Mr Mandelson has been portrayed as the "Prince of Darkness" - the shadowy power-broker famed for his ability to pull strings unseen. Only rarely does he answer questions in the Commons. But after the events of recent days, he appears to be taking on a new, more visible role.

Yesterday, he was in robust form as he spoke of his job as Mr Blair's chief "fixer" and discussed the style as well as the content of the new regime. He was scornful of Tory attempts to portray him as a cynical twister of the headlines and of their "unscrupulous" attacks on Lord Simon.

"My job is to help the Government in the strategic implementation and presentation of its programme. I monitor our performance, progress-chase. I make sure that what we promised in our manifesto is being delivered in each department and across government."

"At the same time, I am presenting our achievements. I am explaining what is going on in support of other



Mr Mandelson yesterday: "John Prescott and I are a good double act"

departmental ministers, who are busily doing that in their own respective areas."

The result, he says, is an administration with a far greater sense of direction than that of the drifting hulk of the Major years. And, with his vigorous and insistent defence of the Government's record, it is no wonder that he has become the Tories' favourite whipping boy.

"The Conservatives have to find some stick to beat us with. In the absence of any policy that has gone wrong, any decision that we have fumbled, any hard choice that we have 'ducked', they cast

around for something to discredit us."

"They claim that we are arrogant. I think we are the opposite of arrogant."

Mr Mandelson goes on to cite Mr Blair's determination to forge a lasting political coalition going beyond his party and including outsiders, such as Lord Simon, as evidence of his readiness to govern "sensibly and wisely".

But good government was not enough in itself. Presentation mattered.

"Of course, it has to be communicated properly. Indeed, when events intervene, how you manage those

events, how you cope with those difficulties, the personal difficulties that always arise in a government, are a test of our competence and our ability to govern. I think we have come through well."

He says that the Tories have long laboured under the delusion that he has "almost superhuman powers of media management".

He's flattered, but they are wrong. "In reality, you cannot wipe stories, you cannot fix headlines. I don't decide what goes into *The Nine O'Clock News*."

John Lloyd, page 16

Ministers try to control university fees panic

By David Charter and Polly Newton

THE Government was facing a growing political backlash last night over the increasingly chaotic scramble for the final free university places.

The dispute follows forecasts of an unprecedented rush for courses once A-level results are published next Thursday. Admissions officials said up to 90,000 more applicants than last year would join the hunt for places to avoid the introduction of university course fees and the phasing out of grants in 1998.

The new funding regime is expected to leave some graduates with debts of £12,000. Discontent with ministers' handling of fees spread to government backbenchers, who forecast a dispute at Labour's party conference in October. There was particular concern that gap-year students, who applied for deferred places last December, now faced paying fees and losing grants.

Annual fees of £1,000 will be payable by all students starting university next year. Those who start this October will not have to pay any fees throughout their courses.

Baroness Blackstone, the Higher Education Minister, accused the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) of scaremongering and appealed for an end to "unnecessary concerns" over the number of people chasing university places. Her comments came after news of the death of 18-year-old Tony Dwyer, from Nottingham, whose family said he may have leapt from a multi-storey car park on Tuesday because of worries about his A-level results.

She said: "Irresponsible scaremongering helps no one, neither the students, the universities, nor the admissions service."

She added that Ucas should have foreseen the introduction of tuition fees. "It is astonishing that there should now be the stoking-up of fear for students seeking entry and

unnecessary concerns caused for this autumn."

Harry Barnes, Labour MP for North East Derbyshire, forecast dissent over tuition fees at the party conference in October. He said MPs returning to their constituencies after the Commons rose for the summer recess would be under pressure from voters to protest at the planned fees.

Derek Foster, joint chairman of the Commons Education and Employment Select Committee, urged the Government to take legal advice over the position of gap-year students. "They certainly would not want to be accused of breaking faith with students who have accepted places on one basis and then suddenly discover that it has changed."

Tony Higgins, chief executive of Ucas, said that between 30,000 and 40,000 people

Full listings of degree course vacancies will appear in *The Times* next Thursday

might cancel plans for gap years, or return earlier than they planned to higher education.

There was already a 38 per cent increase in applications to enter clearing, the process which matches students to vacant places, and a 75 per cent rise in those so far accepted through clearing, he said. The figures suggested an unprecedented squeeze on places, which would be exacerbated by any rise in A-level grades.

He said Ucas was led to believe that fees would be introduced in 1999, giving applicants 18 months warning. "The big question is how many of the 90,000 who normally take a year out will come on to the market this year."

Douglas Trainer, president of the National Union of Students, said students who had deferred their university places would feel cheated.

Government plans annual assessment

PLANS for an annual report on Government performance will be announced by ministers today, on the eve of the 100-day anniversary of Labour's election victory.

The prime-ministerial report would assess performance over the previous year, judged on targets set by Tony Blair.

Publication of the first report is expected next May, accompanied by a speech by Mr Blair. A mini-version will

be distributed to thousands of households.

Ministers will use today's press conference to try to regain control of the political agenda after being blown off course by Robin Cook's marriage break-up, Gordon McMaster's suicide and allegations of mismanagement.

The Conservatives plan to try to use the anniversary with a series of conferences of their own, including the interest rate rises.

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Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, with his girlfriend, Doris Köpf



Hiltrud Schröder's wife suing for half his income

Kohl's rival rides out scandal

Frankfurt: The Social Democrat Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, Gerhard Schröder, is still favourite to challenge Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in next year's general election, even though he will almost certainly have to fight a dirty divorce case, according to a survey (Deborah Collett writes).

Despite several attempts by Hiltrud Schröder — nicknamed Hilla — to dish the dirt on her husband, yesterday's Stern magazine reported that

Germans would not be swayed by his domestic affairs when casting their votes.

In the past week Hilla, who had appealed to the German media to respect her privacy, has granted interviews to all the leading newspapers and magazines.

Herr Schröder, 53, left her for Doris Köpf, a journalist nearly 20 years his junior. His wife's lawyer yesterday announced that she would be claiming half of the entire Schröder income accumulat-

ed during their 16 years of marriage.

The survey revealed that, while 82 per cent of men and 73 per cent of women would support him as a candidate for Chancellor following the divorce, there was little enthusiasm for Doris Köpf as First Lady.

In a situation similar to that facing the Prince of Wales, most Germans were prepared to overlook the adultery but would not accept a Chancellor marrying his lover.

Cabinet row may take linnet pâté off Italy's menus

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Italian centre-left Government was split yesterday over a decision to allow hunters in three Italian regions to kill small birds, including several varieties of finch.

The decision may set Rome on a collision course with Brussels because a European Union directive forbids the shooting of wild animals and birds for "recreation" and allows exemptions only under strict conditions.

Edo Ronchi, Minister for the Environment and a leading member of the Green Party, which is part of the government coalition, said he was "publicly dissenting" from a decision by the Cabinet to allow the hunting of small birds in three north and central Italian regions: Lombardy, Tuscany and Emilia Romagna, the native region of Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister. Several senior members of the former Communist Party of the Democratic Left, the main party in the ruling alliance, are pro-hunting.

Hunting is an emotive issue in Italy, where the season for game begins next month and lasts for four months. Hunters

are even allowed to encroach on private land, provided they use only rifles and have the necessary gun permits. There are nearly a million hunters, some of whom dress up in Rambo-style camouflage uniforms more suitable to a tiger hunt than the shooting of rabbits and birds.

Environmentalists say that the Government already turns a blind eye to the wholesale slaughter of small birds as well as of game birds and that hunters routinely kill smaller species not just for sport but to eat them in a variety of specialised dishes, such as greenfinch tagliatelle, linnet piast and turtle dove kebabs. An attempt by environmentalists and animal rights campaigners to ban hunting altogether through a referendum this year collapsed when a low turnout rendered the referendum invalid.

Birds which can now be shot legally in northern Italy include chaffinches, bullfinches, greenfinches, sparrows, starlings, jackdaws, ptarmigan and crows. Under a European directive on the protection of wild birds, EU

states can apply to the European Commission for permission to allow the hunting of particular species, provided it can be shown that the birds in question pose a threat to crops and agriculture, public health or air safety.

It is not clear whether Rome intends to argue that finches and jackdaws pose such a threat in the three regions involved. Last week Brussels issued an exemption, allowing the hunting of cormorants in Germany on the ground that there was a demonstrable cormorant "over-population". But the EU directive forbids hunting of protected species "for recreation", a ruling upheld by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg two years ago.

Fulco Pratesi, a leading member of the World Wide Fund for Nature and director of the Abruzzo National Park, told La Repubblica that hunting had made Italy into a desert. "In France, Switzerland and Austria you can still find plenty of kestrels, kites, hawks and buzzards, but they are fast dying out here in Italy", he said.



It is not just Italian linnets, left, that are at risk: turtle dove kebabs are much in favour

US envoy urges Serbs to honour accord

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

RICHARD HOLBROOKE, the American diplomat who negotiated the Dayton peace accord, arrived in Sarajevo yesterday to demand that Bosnia's leaders should observe its provisions.

He was expected to put pressure on the Bosnian Serbs, who have refused to take part in negotiations on integrating the country and are boycotting discussions by the collective presidency. At a meeting of the three Bosnian leaders in Sarajevo's Lukovica suburb, Mr Holbrooke met

Momcilo Krajisnik, hardline Serb member of Bosnia's three-man leadership, who attended a presidency meeting for the first time in three weeks. Mr Holbrooke accused him and other allies of Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader accused of war crimes, of blocking the peace treaty.

"The major problem is all-out obstruction by leaders in Pale," Mr Holbrooke said, referring to the government of Republika Srpska. He is due to have talks today with Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb president, who is locked in a bitter power struggle with Dr Karadzic. Later

in Belgrade he will meet President Milosevic, the Serb leader, who is thought to be maintaining his links with Dr Karadzic. In line with Western attempts to back Mrs Plavsic in implementing the Dayton terms, Mr Holbrooke is expected to support her call for a dissolution of the Pale parliament and fresh elections.

Mr Holbrooke had talks in Tuzla yesterday with General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Wesley Clark, Nato's supreme commander.

Leading article and letter, page 12.

WORLD SUMMARY

Travel ban on Nazi suspect

Paris: Maurice Papon, the former Vichy minister accused of deporting 1,560 Jews to Nazi death camps, was yesterday banned from travelling outside France (Ben Macintyre writes).

M Papon, 86, is to be tried in October in Bordeaux. Lawyers for the families of deported Jews, claimed there was a risk he could abscond.

Internet 'torture'

Traunstein: A German couple have gone on trial here accused of offering on the Internet to kidnap and torture children for sex games and to dispose of the bodies of any who died in the process. (AFP)

Eta suspect held

Paris: Igor Urriestazu Garrio, suspected of being the intelligence chief of the Basque guerrilla group Eta, has been detained in Albi, southern France, after a car chase, police said. (Reuters)

Missiles found

Tirana: Albania's Defence Ministry said it had recovered 16 long-range battlefield missiles worth £6 million stolen last month from a southern garrison near the Greek border. (Reuters)

Mir docking

Moscow: Anatoli Soloviyov and Pavel Vinogradov, the Russian cosmonauts on a vital mission to repair the Mir space station, last night docked their Soyuz craft with the stricken space station.

Beau gesture

Madrid: A Spanish conscientious objector accused of dodging a state-assigned social services job told a court he had now joined the French Foreign Legion. He was fined £380. (AFP)

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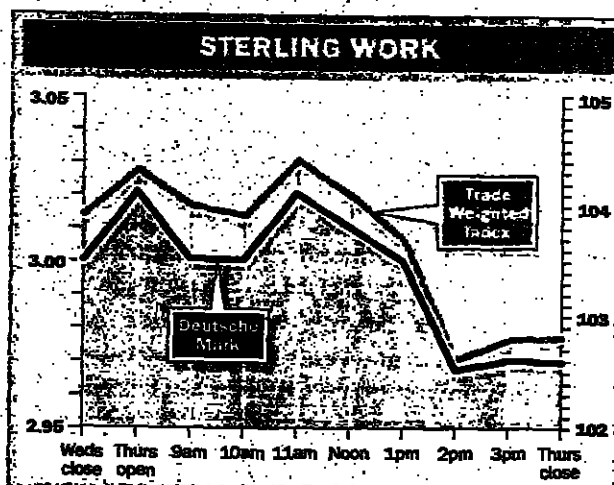
The champion
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 8 1997

Bank's skilled balancing act softens rate rise



By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
AND OLIVER AUGUST

IN AN encouraging show of market skill, the Bank of England's monetary policy committee managed to raise domestic interest rates and talk the pound down at the same time yesterday. In doing so, it eased the dilemma of the past three months of wanting to curb consumer spending but hurting industry each time it tried to do so.

Explaining the fourth quarter-point rise in base rates to 7 per cent, the Bank said: "Although the present strength of sterling reflects in large part factors outside the influence of UK monetary policy, upward pressures on the exchange rate should be reduced by the perception that interest rates have reached a level consistent with the

inflation target". Markets took this to mean that next week's *Inflation Report* will confirm that interest rates are now set for inflation to be on target in two years and that the Bank is unlikely to press for a further change until the next assessment in November.

Sterling fell by three pence for the second day running to close at DM 2.9707. The mark rate, which is most critical for exports, is still 30 per cent higher than a year ago but has fallen 3.3 per cent since its peak a fortnight ago. Against the dollar, which affects input prices, sterling fell through \$1.60 to \$1.5859, its lowest since October.

Instant responses to the rate rise from business organisations, ranging from anger at the Chambers of Commerce to a mere wringing of hands at the Institute of Directors,

assumed it would hit exporters. As sterling turned down, real exporters were more divided over the impact.

British Steel welcomed yesterday's fall of sterling. A spokesman said: "Every pence that the pound rises against the mark affects our bottom line." The group has announced it is being forced to cut 2,000 jobs as a result of sterling's recent rise.

At Helen Marina Bridalwear, where the strong pound has cut exports of silk dresses to Germany from 20 per cent of total turnover to 7 per cent, Nick Nicholas, managing director, said: "We have had to set our German prices in sterling. That means our dresses became 30 per cent more expensive and we lost a lot of customers." He said the pound would have to be a lot weaker before overseas profits increased again.

Some large exporters said many of their goods were traded in dollars so prices were unaffected. This line was taken by British Aerospace, the planemaker, and Shell, which exports oil from its North Sea fields.

GKN, which operates several large engineering subsidiaries in Europe and America, claimed to be unaffected. David Turner, finance director, said currency losses at the automotive group are balanced out by increased business at the German subsidiaries that benefit from the weak mark.

Chris Marsay, a director at BOC, the international gases group, said: "It really only affects us when overseas profits are translated into sterling."

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Anatole Kaletsky, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5086.8	(+60.6)
Yield	3.24%	
FTSE All share	2369.07	(+28.33)
Nikkei	15471.88	(+225.22)
New York		
Dow Jones	8282.79	(+3.48)
S&P Composite	959.69	(+0.62)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
Yield	6.48%	(6.48%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long bill	11 1/2%	(11 1/2%)
Future (Sep)	11 1/2%	(11 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.5875*	(1.6033)
London		
\$	1.5860	(1.6011)
DM	2.9711	(2.9011)
FF	10.0268	(10.1310)
Sfr	2.4268	(2.4477)
Yen	187.94	(189.37)
S Index	102.8	(103.5)
Tokyo close	Yen 118.82	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$19.25	(\$19.30)
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GOLD

London close	\$322.35	(\$319.75)
		* denotes midday trading price

Disappointment

Net profits at Royal Dutch Shell fell by almost £500 million to £2.5 billion after currency losses and problems with the restructuring of its chemicals arm. The results, below City expectations, brought a 3 per cent fall in the shares, to 458 1/2 p.

Poor reading

Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing company, saw nearly £500 million wiped of its UK market value yesterday after it blamed the soaring pound for sluggish 1 per cent growth in half-year profits. Page 23

Firms to face huge fines as MMC goes

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES will face fines of up to 10 per cent of their annual turnover if they are in breach of competition rules announced yesterday by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

The Government's draft Bill, putting forward a radical shake-up of competition law, was accompanied by the resignation, 15 months early, of Sir Graeme Odgers, current head of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Under the plans, the MMC would be replaced by a Competition Commission.

Mrs Beckett took the novel step of issuing the Government's proposed Bill in draft form, rather than on its presentation to Parliament, as is normal.

The Government wants to consult widely with business and legal experts before taking the Bill to the Commons in the autumn. Ministers plan to allow a period of about a year for companies to adjust once the legislation has passed through Parliament, suggesting it is likely to be applicable in about October 1999.

Mrs Beckett said: "Present competition law is not working well. Its reform is long overdue. Consumers need a better deal. We need to prevent and remedy anti-competitive behaviour more effectively. We also need to do so efficiently, avoiding

placing any unnecessary burdens on business."

The draft Bill essentially brings UK competition law into line with competition law in the European Union, under articles 85 and 86 of the European Community treaty. It will reshape the UK system by prohibiting anti-competitive behaviour.

The draft Bill focuses on two main areas. Firstly, it prohibits anti-competitive agreements, based on the EU's article 85, which will render unlawful cartels and arrangements made to prevent, restrict or distort competition. The Government's proposals are similar to plans announced a year ago by the previous administration.

Secondly, the Bill prohibits the abuse of a dominant position in a market, based on the EU's article 86. This is a different approach from that of the previous government.

penalties. Companies found to be in breach could face fines of up to 10 per cent of their UK turnover for the year of their infringement.

Competitors and customers damaged by proven anti-competitive behaviour would be entitled to seek damages.

The new Competition Commission would act as the appeal body for the Director-General's decision, with any further appeal going to the courts. Small firms, probably with annual turnover of less than £20 million, would be excluded from the provisions. Whitehall officials estimate, therefore, that only about 240 UK companies are likely to be affected by the new provisions. In addition, mergers would be largely unaffected by the changes.

The Confederation of British Industry broadly supported the adoption of European practices, but gave warning against over-heavy administration. In particular, the CBI liked the idea of a draft Bill on which they could comment.

Sir Graeme, 63, described the proposals as "admirable" and "long overdue". He said he had made clear to the previous government his wish to leave in order to return to the private sector for the final part of his career.

Commentary, page 23



Margaret Beckett wants the Bill to be consumer-friendly

Rank signs deal for Hard Rock Hotels

By DOMINIC WALSH

RANK GROUP, the leisure combine that owns the Hard Rock Cafe brand, has signed a deal with Ong Beng Seng, the brains behind London's stylish Metropolitan and Halkin hotels, to develop a worldwide chain of Hard Rock Hotels.

The Hard Rock brand name is being licensed to Leisure Ventures, a company controlled by Mr Ong, who is also the largest Hard Rock Cafe franchisee.

Rank also unveiled plans to buy back 10 per cent of its shares and to raise at least £100 million in a sale and leaseback deal. It has set up a 50:50 joint venture with British Land, the property group, which will buy an unspecified number of Rank's leisure properties and lease them back.

But the announcements failed to allay City fears that Andrew Teare, chief executive for less than 18 months, has yet to get to grips with turning the company around.

In the wake of a heavier than expected £12 million drop in first-half pre-tax profits to

£87 million, the shares dived 30 1/2 p to 340 p and analysts immediately took a scalpel to full-year forecasts. Turnover after disposals dropped from £940 million to £856 million.

The main culprit was a 31 per cent drop in operating profits in the film and entertainment division, thanks to dire video volumes in the US.

Ambitious development programmes for Hard Rock Cafe and concepts such as Boutins, Tom Cobbleigh pubs and Odeon cinemas failed to mask concerns first flagged in a profit warning less than two months ago.

Mr Teare admitted the fruits of his change of strategy were coming through more slowly than expected, but was confident the seeds for future growth were being laid. "The big issue in the figures is the £14 million shortfall in video, which colours the whole issue," he said.

A dividend of 5.25p (5.0p) is payable on September 19.

Commentary, page 23

Barclays shares lifted by payout and buyback plan

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Barclays Bank soared by more than 100p after strong half-time results were followed by a large dividend rise and the prospect of a £100 million share-buyback plan.

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said that the bank had already repurchased £290 million worth of its shares out of a promised £500 million "buyback" programme. The bank reported an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.4 billion, before a £105 million tax charge arising from the Budget.

After the higher-than-forecast interim results from Barclays, it raised its dividend by 17 per cent to 13.5p, payable on October 2. Mr Taylor said: "Our capital position is stronger than we had foreseen and, in the absence of a compelling alternative use for the money, we now believe the scope for share buybacks in 1997 as a whole may be closer to £700 million." The shares raced ahead to close at 1447.5p, up 120p on the day.

Profits from personal banking services in the six months to June 30 rose to £422 million, from £347 million in the same period last year, while business banking increased its contribution to £516 million, from £372 million.

BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays, reported half-year profits of £124 million against £148 million last time — and a considerable improvement from the £42 million reported in the second half of last year.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays, said: "This is a story of continued growth and strong performance. The main driver of the profit growth has been the UK bank, which has done extremely well in all areas. I am also pleased that BZW is showing the progress we forecast at the beginning of this year."

Bad-debt provision fell by 39 per cent, to £90 million, and earnings per share rose 7 per cent to 59.2 pence.

Commentary, page 23

Pitcher refuses to meet City

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

SIR Desmond Pitcher, executive chairman of United Utilities, has no plans to meet with leading shareholders despite the unhappiness expressed in the City about last month's sacking of Brian Staples, the group's former chief executive.

Sir Desmond said no fresh information would be forthcoming for institutional investors who want to quiz the company on Mr Staples' sudden departure. He said he had no plans to meet institutions himself nor was aware of their wish to see the company over the issue. But he said he could understand there was concern in the City.

Privately, a number of institutional investors have said they have sought meetings with the company. One said: "We are monitoring the situation closely."

Sir Desmond told *The Times*: "We don't believe it is in [Mr Staples'] interests or the company's to give an explanation that would lead to speculation and comment and debate."

Capital director saves £68,000 on sale of shares

By JASON NISSE

THE director of gaming at Capital Corporation, the casino group where a £190 million bid from London Clubs International was blocked earlier this week, saved himself £68,000 by selling shares in the troubled company while the decision over whether the bid could proceed was being made.

John Dunkley, one of only four executive directors at the group, exercised warrants he received in the 1989 buyout of Crookfords casino and sold 333,196 shares at 186p, making a profit of £320,000.

The share sale, to fund a property investment by Mr Dunkley, was announced on July 13, two weeks after the end of the first half of the group's financial year.

It was also a week after the report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, recommending the bid be blocked, was passed to Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade. After the bid was blocked on Monday, Capital shares dropped and closed yesterday at 165 1/2 p, valuing

the stake Mr Dunkley sold at £68,000 less.

Capital said yesterday that Mr Dunkley actually sold the shares on June 26, prior to the end of the half year. The announcement was made late because of an administrative error because we were changing company secretaries". It said that Mr Dunkley was not in possession of any inside information.

A spokesman said: "The sale was checked by our advisers." The advisers include Hambros, the merchant bank, Merrill Lynch, the broker, and Stephenson Harwood, the firm of lawyers.

Capital, which has lost 11 senior executives including its chairman and finance director this year, is now considering whether to take up an option, entered into six weeks ago, to buy the Cromwell Mini casino in Kensington.

The deal allows the group to buy the casino for £25 million. It has three more weeks to decide whether to go ahead with the deal.

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SCOTTISH LEGAL LIFE

Glamour names book into court

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

The owner of four prominent American hotels that bear the Ritz-Carlton name have filed a \$250 million (£158 million) lawsuit against the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company.

The moves come after Ritz-Carlton ended its agreement to manage the hotels and revoked their right to the glamorous Ritz-Carlton name.

The suit has been filed in the New York State Supreme Court by Al Anwa, a Los Angeles-based investment company controlled by Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Ibrahim al-Ibrahim, brother-in-law of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Ritz-Carlton said that it had acted in response to repeated breaches of contract by Al Anwa, including a refusal by the owners to pay more than \$4 million in management fees and cost reimbursements.

Horst Schulze, president of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, also said that the relationship was terminated because of Al Anwa's "refusal to make capital improvements and repeated attempts to interfere with the operating decisions of Ritz-Carlton".

The hotel company has withdrawn all its management employees from the four hotels — the Ritz-Carltons in Central Park South in New York, Embassy Row in Washington, Houston in Texas, and Aspen in Colorado.

Wags are referring to "the hotels once known as the Ritz-Carlton" — a mischievous echo of the affection by Prince, the entertainer who no longer wishes to be addressed by that name.

Shell confident of reaching targets despite currency losses

BY OLIVER AUGUST

NET profits at Royal Dutch Shell fell by almost £500 million to £2.5 billion after currency losses and problems with the restructuring of its chemicals arm. The results, below City expectations, brought a 3 per cent fall in the shares to 483½p.

Losses from the strong pound amounted to £117 million, primarily owing to cash being held in depreciating currencies. While the ex-

change rate problems might continue, Shell said that it was optimistic about the chemicals businesses, in spite of a "disappointing" second-quarter.

Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, Royal Dutch's UK arm, said the ongoing restructuring in chemicals should help second-half results. He said: "I am confident that by the end of the year we will be ahead of our original road map targets."

Shell was hit by plant start-up costs in Singapore and the taking of 70 per cent of plant maintenance costs in the three months to June 30. Mr Moody-Stuart said: "These are not excuses. We should have taken them in our stride."

The share price was hit further yesterday when Shell conceded that Iraq was unlikely to renew oil sale contracts under the UN's humanitarian oil-for-food exchange. The sale is worth about \$1 billion overall. Crude oil prices in the

first half were about \$15 a barrel below a year ago.

A spokesman said: "Our contract has not been renewed and we are awaiting the outcome of inquiries to clarify the matter. We had asked to renew our existing contract. We have been officially advised by Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation that we would not receive an allocation."

The group said the outlook was for continued increases in crude oil supply from the North Sea and ample supply

of oil products. But the price background should provide an improved basis for chemicals industry performance for the remainder of the year.

Shell said refining and marketing margins were up 17 per cent in the second quarter on a current-cost basis, but earnings were lower because of inventory holding losses. The group spent £1.7 billion on capital investment and exploration and said spending was set to go up, mainly on exploration and production.

Tesco signs up Burton director

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ANDREW HIGGINSON is to leave his job as finance director of the Burton Group before its demerger and join Tesco. He will replace David Reid as finance director at the supermarket group on November 15. Mr Reid will stay on as deputy chairman.

Nigel Hall, who was previously Burton's group information systems director and more recently director of the demerger process, will become financial director of Burton. He had been due to leave the group after Debenhams was split off from the rest of the group next year.

Mr Higginson, 40, was hired by Terry Leahy, the new chief executive of Tesco. He said he was sorry to be leaving Burton, where he has been for three years, but felt that the Tesco job was too good to pass up.

The demerger, which would have left him with a much smaller job, working as a finance director of the multiples chains, had not influenced his decision to move.

Before Burton, Mr Higginson was finance director at Laura Ashley for four years. Prior to that, he was at Guinness Brewing International.



Philip Davies, managing director of Linden Homes, left, and Gerard Price, MD of Amplevine, the Hampshire housebuilder acquired by Linden for £6 million

Telewest confirms job losses

BY DOMINIC WALSH

TELEWEST Communications, the cable TV company, confirmed yesterday that it is to cut 25 per cent of its workforce — 1,400 jobs — in a bid to reduce costs. Savings of £40 million are expected in the first full year, but a charge of £5 million will be taken against the 1997 results.

The company announced

that continuing development of its network had widened half-year losses from £117.5 million to £142.3 million on turnover up just over a third to £181.4 million. Earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation moved from a £7.1 million deficit to a £16.4 million profit and more than 91,000 new customers were added.

The job losses are part of a

plan to streamline seven regional franchise areas into four. Fewer construction staff are needed because 70 per cent of the network has been built.

NTL, the cable and broadcast services group, confirmed yesterday that it was in preliminary merger talks with Telewest.

Tempus, page 24

Zeneca casts an eye at Ohmeda

BY PAUL DURMAN

ZENECA, the drugs group, is interested in buying Ohmeda, the healthcare business being offered for sale by BOC Group for £1 billion.

Zeneca already distributes Ohmeda's products. Smiths Industries has also declared its interest in Ohmeda.

Zeneca reported a 10 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £669 million, even though the strength of the pound cut the total by about £90 million.

Sir David Barnes, chief executive, said that although Zeneca was protected by the strength of its new products and its hedging skills, "for UK plc the pound is now at a painful level".

John Mayo, the finance director, who is joining GEC, said that the costs of launching new products such as Zorign for migraine and Seroquel for schizophrenia would slow profits growth in the second half. However, Zeneca still expects to meet its target of 15 per cent earnings growth.

The company will pay an interim dividend of 13.5p, up 8 per cent, on November 3.

Tempus, page 24

Britain's last tin mine faces closure

THE last tin mine in Britain is to close with the loss of 270 jobs. Managers at South Crofty mine, near Redruth, Cornwall, disclosed the move at an emergency meeting of staff. The company blamed the decision on the falling price of tin on the world market and the strengthening value of the pound against the dollar. South Crofty will be closed down over the next six months, with 75 jobs going first through voluntary redundancy and lay-offs.

The closure announcement marks the end of a continuing battle to save the mine. In 1994, 1,500 small investors, including the miners, offered to buy £500,000 of shares in a £1 million effort to preserve the 2,500-year tradition of tin mining in Cornwall. At the same time, the mine was taken over by the Crew Group of companies, a Canadian-based resource group. However, a company spokesman said the price of a tonne of tin had fallen to £3,200 — way below the £4,000 a tonne minimum needed to keep the mine open.

KBC attracts Japanese

KBC TECHNOLOGY, which provides consultancy to oil refining companies, said it has been approached by a stream of Japanese firms after winning a key contract with Tomen Corporation. Last year's deregulation of the Japanese market had created demand for its profit improvement programme. Pre-tax profits were £3.62 million (£2.71 million) in the six months to June 30, on sales of £15.9 million (£12.4 million). Earnings rose to 4.62p (3.78p) a share. There is no dividend.

Apple shares soar

SHARES of Apple Computer reached their highest level in 18 months amid optimism that a \$150 million investment from Microsoft and a new board of directors will bolster its fortunes. Apple stock was up \$3, or 11 per cent, at \$29.31 in midday trading on Nasdaq. The Apple/Microsoft deal still needs to overcome regulatory hurdles. If Apple were to disappear, Microsoft would completely control the computer operating system market worldwide. Apple pie order, page 25

Mersey shares jump

SHARES in Mersey Docks and Harbour Company rose from 368p to 389p after it revealed a rise in pre-tax profits from £13.9 million to £22.2 million. Earnings rose from £72.8 million to £82.2 million. Earnings rose from 10.70p to 17.55p, out of which the half-year dividend rises from 4.00p to 4.50p. The group also said that its final offer to the 329 dockers that it sacked two years ago for refusing to cross a picket line will not remain on the table indefinitely and has a "sell-by" date.

Robert Walters ahead

ROBERT WALTERS, the recruitment consultancy, is developing a £1 million supercomputer capable of matching employers with new workers within two minutes. The company is spending almost a third of its cash pile on the project. Pre-tax profits doubled to £3.28 million (£1.67 million) in the first half of the year. Earnings jumped to 8.8p a share (4.0p). Analysts now expect a pre-tax profit of £7 million (£3.93 million) by the year-end.

Thomson in the red

THOMSON CORPORATION, the Canadian based publishing and travel group, incurred a net loss of \$7 million (\$33 million, net income) for the first half of the year. It blamed higher development spending and a shift in the timing of new product releases into the second half of the year. Sales rose to \$3.73 billion (\$2.89 billion) and the loss per share was 1 cent (6 cents, earnings). Thomson said the travel business enjoyed better operating results. The dividend is 14.5 cents.

US phone price cuts

AMERICAN regulators yesterday approved rules aimed at cutting the price of overseas phone calls and saving consumers and businesses \$17 billion through to 2003. The nation's top phone regulator said the move, coupled with a recent global trade pact on telecommunications, will cut the average price of an international call from the United States to 20 cents a minute, from 88 cents, over five years. New benchmark targets range from 15 cents to 23 cents a minute.

Yamada's Welsh start

YAMADA SEISAKUSHO, which supplies components to Honda, has begun building a £33-million factory at Ebbw Vale. It will create 91 jobs. Honda will now take Yamada parts from Wales rather than Japan, and Yamada plans to supply customers in the United States as well as continental Europe. The Ebbw Vale site was chosen in preference to locations in the United States and Europe and becomes the 54th Japanese operation in Wales.

Zeneca: the half year report

Continued good performance:

- ✓ Underlying* sales up 10%
- ✓ Underlying* profit before tax up 22%

Continued progress of recently-introduced products:

- ✓ Sales of pharmaceutical products launched in the last two years accounted for 16% of total pharmaceutical sales
- ✓ Since its November 1996 launch, over 360,000 patients in the US have been prescribed our new oral asthma therapy
- ✓ First launch, in the UK, of our new migraine treatment
- ✓ UK and US approvals for Amistar family of agricultural fungicides: now launched in 15 countries

Continued strengthening of future growth potential:

- ✓ Acquisition of:
 - Remaining 50% shareholding of Salick Health Care, Inc., US comprehensive cancer care provider
 - Mogen, international plant biotechnology company
- ✓ Research collaborations announced with:
 - Pharmacopeia (combinatorial chemistry)
 - Xenova (natural compound libraries)
 - Oxford University (genetic research into heart disease)
 - University of California (immunosuppressive drugs discovery)
 - Molecular Dynamics/Amersham International (gene analysis technology access)
- ✓ £218 million capital investment includes new manufacturing facilities to meet increasing demand for new products

*Underlying results reflect constant rates of exchange and exclude the results of divested businesses.

ZENECA
BRINGING IDEAS TO LIFE

The 1997 Interim Report will be mailed to shareholders. Non-shareholders may obtain copies by writing to The Secretary, Zeneca Group PLC, 15 Stanmore Lane, London W11 6LN or by e-mail request to webmaster.zeneca.com

Nationwide to reopen accounts

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

NATIONWIDE, the UK's biggest building society, will open its doors to new savers from the beginning of next week. However, those hoping to open a new account with the society will need to have at least £5,000. Only tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) will carry a minimum investment of £3,000.

The Nationwide was forced to close savings accounts to new customers after being besieged by "carpetbaggers" — those opening accounts for the sole purpose of benefiting from any windfall, if the society converted into a bank or was sold.

The speculation was fuelled by an attempt by Michael Hardern, a former royal butler, and four others to get on to the board and force the society to float. The board defeated

the attempt by a majority of three to one.

The UK's biggest building society imposed a ban on all new savings account customers on June 18 amid this intense speculation.

Brian Davis, Nationwide chief executive, said: "We are very pleased to be welcoming once again new savers who want to take advantage of our very competitive rates. However, we intend to manage carefully business volumes in order to ensure we can continue to maintain service standards for existing customers."

He indicated the minimum balance levels could be cut at a later date, saying the society would continue to adopt a "cautious" approach until it had assessed new account opening levels over the coming weeks.

Swire Pacific advances 8.5%

SWIRE PACIFIC, the Hong Kong conglomerate, reported an 8.5 per cent rise in interim net profit, fuelled by a sharp rise in property profits which Swire said should strengthen during the second half.

Swire reported net profit of HK\$3.32 billion (£265 million) for the half year compared with HK\$3.06 billion in the same period in 1996.

Profit on the sale of development properties soared to HK\$3.07 billion (HK\$59 million); net rental income rose to HK\$1.88 billion (HK\$1.77 billion).

TOURIST RATES:

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.27	2.28
Austria Sch	21.88	20.22
Belgium Fr	94.47	50.51
Canada \$	2.29	2.40
Cyprus Cyp£	0.915	0.843
Denmark Kr	11.89	11.00
Finland Mk	6.45	6.88
France Fr	10.48	9.70
Germany DM	3.13	2.88
Greece Dr	480	451
Hong Kong \$	13.08	11.88
Ireland £	1.17	1.07
Italy Lit	1.15	1.07
Israel Shk	5.92	5.27
Japan Yen	9078	2268
Malta	0.675	0.616
Netherlands Gld	2.535	3.540
New Zealand \$	2.64	2.40
Norway Kr	12.82	11.88
Portugal Esc	310.02	291.50
S Africa Rd	5.15	7.19
Spain Ptas	261.79	243.00
Sweden Kr	12.35	12.48
Switzerland Fr	2.39	2.36
Turkey Lira	2097.02	2499.04
USA \$	1.653	1.593

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

NatWest Interest Rates

Interest rates applicable to
Business Overdraft Agreements
and Business Loan Agreements
are increased by 1/4% per annum
with effect from
8 August 1997.

This notice does not apply to agreements which specify the rate as fixed or linked to Base Rate.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank PLC, 40 Lombard Street, London EC2M 3JL

Jury still out on the Chancellor



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Talk down the pound" came the entreaties from British exporters. The Chancellor of the Exchequer took a statesmanlike line and refused to intervene in the nasty business of currency valuations but yesterday the Bank of England's monetary policy committee contrived a verbal means of curbing sterling's strength. All its members did was indicate that the fourth rise in interest rates in as many months should be the last.

The effect was dramatic, not only in the currency markets but in the stock market, which soared ahead. The fact that UK real interest rates are now high enough to make companies think twice before investing is seen as irrelevant compared with the fact that exporters will not be burdened with an uncomfortably high exchange rate. In the stock market, short term continues to be the only term that counts.

The market has now digested and thrived on the landslide victory of a Labour Government, its dramatic changes in the running of the Bank of England and monetary policy and a Budget which hit tax relief on dividends in a draconian way. But while Labour has been far better for equity investors than any pundit might have expected, the picture is not as clear cut as the FTSE graph would indicate. By the standards of the German

and French stock markets, London looks a relative laggard over the past three months. Cutting the value of equities to pension funds as viciously as Chancellor Brown did with his ACT move is bound to register at some stage. If the relative performance indicates that there has already been some adjustment, there must still be further to go.

Tony Dye, the PDM fund manager who spotted the weaknesses in the equity market just as shares were about to demonstrate new found strength, cannot now expect to be vindicated, but the ever-upwards progression of the FTSE must soon come to a halt.

The business community is still forming a judgment on the new Government. Despite the dividend tax horror, Gordon Brown offered some compensation with his cut in corporation tax rates and made reassuring noises. But there are still issues on which business remains wary. The minimum wage could be a minor inconvenience or a major problem for British companies. The Government's renewed enthusiasm for legislating on the right

to trade union recognition is also causing rumbles of concern. Few business bosses would like to be in the shoes of Bob Ayling as he struggles to change the way BA operates, but many are likely to face similar challenges in taking their companies into the next century. They are not yet certain where Government will stand in such battles.

Banking on a correction

It is fitting that the main bank reporting season has drawn to a close, with the Barclays share price putting on more than 100p in a single day. What has emerged from the seven banks to report so far, is of a sector in rude health but one that will have to work twice as hard to produce such mouth-watering gains for

investors in the future. The reporting season has also underlined how difficult it is to put a general handle on banks as opposed to analysing the pros and cons for investing in them as individual entities. Take Abbey National. Like so many of its rivals, the Abbey enjoys a strong retail franchise, now boosted by its acquisition of National & Provincial Building Society. Lloyds continues to benefit from the further integration of TSB, while Barclays responds to customer demand, with new services such as PC Banking attracting 1,000 customers a day. NatWest also reported a doubling of retail banking profits.

Aside from retail aspirations, the bank sector looks very different from an investor's perspective. For the second half of the banker's financial year, therefore, exposure should be on an in-

dividual, rather than sector, basis. The Abbey is earning more than half of its profits from non-traditional activities and more cyclical businesses, making it more vulnerable to market downturns — perhaps the long-term investment attraction has more to do with takeover talk than generic growth.

NatWest's problems in its investment banking division have been well-chronicled but it is by no means the basket case it has been made out to be. Strong leadership and a clear sense that some of NatWest Markets businesses should be sold off is needed. HSBC badly needs to boost the Midland mortgage book and insurance arm. Barclays' faith in BZW is still a high risk strategy but one that is likely to pay further dividends. If prices come down, the Woolwich may yet fall to the Prudential,

which needs a high street outlet. If Lloyds TSB acquires, it might just as easily do so overseas as in the UK. Nor can Halifax afford to rest on its laurels, and some expect an acquisition by year-end. If there is a sector looking for a correction, it is the banks.

Not a Teare of sympathy for Rank

Poor old Rank. It had a wonderful line in selling highly priced hamburgers, and T-shirts to match when, would you believe it, someone else cottoned onto the idea and opened up nearby. Well, you can imagine the effect that had! Rank bravely spelt out the truth yesterday. Profits from its Hard Rock cafes had been hit by "competitor entry".

Chief executive Andrew Teare seemed somewhat surprised that this appalling state of affairs did not elicit the sympathy of analysts listening to his list of excuses for Rank's failure to produce the results they had expected. Competition is a nasty fact of life in the markets where Rank

operates, and Mr Teare will have to learn to live with it. The stock market is not convinced he is the type for such cut and thrust and does not share his confidence that his first year at Rank has positioned the group to prosper.

There are strong businesses within Rank, Hard Rock among them. The hotel deal with the Far Eastern magnate Ong Beng Seng demonstrates the potential that still exists in a business which can make the 40 something still feel trendy.

But while Teare certainly moved fast in his first year, not all he did met with approval. Now his expensive Tom Cobleigh acquisition is likely to fall below forecasts. Mr Teare has to learn that the first lesson of the stock market is to encourage realistic expectations, and to meet them.

Not such good Nick

HARVEY NICHOLS is in danger of losing a little of its glamour. That most famous customer, the one who used to hop over from Kensington Palace to replenish her wardrobe, has clearly transferred to the rival establishment. Rumours that Mohamed Ali Fayed asked her to be chairman of Harrods may be wide of the mark — surely she would have accepted. But Harvey Nichols shareholders will surely miss her custom.

European drug debut for Cortecs

By PAUL DURMAN

CORTecs International aims to file its treatment for osteoporosis for European registration by the end of the month.

Macritonin will be the first drug developed from the company's own research. Shares in Cortecs, whose main listing will soon be switched to the London stock market, rose 16p to 178.5p.

Cortecs is talking to potential European marketing partners for Macritonin and hopes for a deal by year-end. Macritonin is a capsule form of salmon calcitonin, which osteoporosis sufferers currently take by injection or nasal spray.

Cortecs believes capsules will be more popular. It must conduct further trials to enable it to apply for US approval.

Reed shares hit by slow progress

By FRASER NELSON

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing company, saw nearly £500 million wiped off its UK market value yesterday after announcing a sluggish 1 per cent growth in half-year profits. The company blamed its performance on the strength of the pound.

Shares of Reed International, the UK-listed half of the company, dropped 40p to 590p on City fears that the result suggested that the group is having problems in preparing its vast data banks for the digital age.

The company said that a profits slowdown was inevitable if it is to spend the amount needed to continue the pace of upgrading, but denied that it had more serious problems.

Without the effects of currency exchange, profits would have grown 10 per cent, to £459 million. But, as things

stood, pre-profits were £419 million (£416 million). Group sales slowed to £1.68 million (£1.7 million).

Nigel Stapleton, chairman, said only its travel division had suffered from transitional problems as its flight booking directories and holiday information was put on to the

Tempus 24

Internet and CD Roms. This led to a 6 per cent decline in the division's sales over the six months to June 30. He said: "We are putting the scheduled information in electronic form, and so far the rate of uptake has been lagging. But this is an isolated case. If we as a group are making slow progress then the rest of the industry is doing worse. Of

course, there are pockets of our company that could do better."

Lexis-Nexis, the £1 billion on-line legal and business information database bought three years ago, lifted its margins to 20 per cent in the half year, against 11 per cent on acquisition.

Mr Stapleton said the performance vindicated the acquisition, which at the time was criticised as being unnecessarily expensive. He added that the company was still on the prowl for more acquisitions, and had a war chest of \$3 billion (£1.87 billion). He said he would like to broaden the science publishing division, which speaks for a quarter of its profits.

Overall, earnings rose eased to 14p (14.05p). The interim dividend rises to 4.4p (4.125p), and is due on October 6.

Saracen trust makes plea to investors

DIRECTORS of Saracen Value, the smaller companies investment trust, tried yesterday to head off a threatened extraordinary general meeting with a plea to shareholders (Adam Jones writes).

The trust underperformed its benchmark index in the year to March 31. It issued a statement claiming HSBC Asset Management was pushing to get SFM Investment Management removed so it could manage the fund itself.

It said the trust's directors were conscious of the "significant" 17.9 per cent discount that had emerged between asset value and share price and asked shareholders to take no action before receiving proposals from the trust.

Royal's first-half profit surprise

By ADAM JONES

ROYAL & SunAlliance reported surprisingly strong first-half results yesterday, on the back of a late surge in UK underwriting performance.

The insurer, censured earlier this week by the Personal Investment Authority for allegedly missing a deadline in tackling its pensions mis-selling legacy, also said it is more than halfway towards chopping £175 million from its annual costs, at a cost of £67 million so far.

Analysts had predicted profits of about £450 million. After Roger Taylor, executive deputy chairman, announced interim pre-tax profits of £556 million, a rise of 11 per cent on

last year's figure, the shares closed at 545.5p, up 23p.

The composite insurer said the increase on 1996 would have been 18 per cent were it not for the strength of the pound.

UK general business produced an underwriting loss of £37 million. However, the second quarter produced a profit of £10 million, to the surprise of analysts.

While asserting that the company had actually met the pensions target, Mr Taylor refused to give any figures. An interim dividend of 7.15p (6.5p) was declared.

Tempus, page 24

Liberty upbeat after rise at interim stage

LIBERTY International, the property to financial services group, was upbeat about trading this year as it unveiled a 10 per cent increase in first-half pre-tax profits yesterday (Adam Jones writes).

In the six months to June 30, profits rose from £56.1 million to £61.8 million. Net asset value per share increased from 436p to 473p after a revaluation of the UK shopping centres owned by an associate company, Capital Shopping Centres.

Donald Gordon, chairman, said the company's low gearing and "significant" cash balances also left it well placed for acquisitions. An interim dividend of 8p (7.25p) is due to be paid on October 7.

Zeneca: the half year accounts

Financial highlights
(for the six months ended 30 June 1997)

	1997	1996	% change
Sales	£2,752m	£2,940m	-6%
Underlying* growth			+10%
Operating Profit	£660m	£622m	+6%
Profit before tax	£669m	£610m	+10%
Underlying* growth			+22%
Earnings per Ordinary Share	47.3p	42.9p	+10%
Dividend per Ordinary Share	13.5p	12.5p	+8%
Return on Sales	24.0%	21.2%	
Gearing	3.7%	2.4%*	

*Underlying results reflect constant rates of exchange and exclude the results of divested businesses
†Re-stated to comply with FRS1

Sir David Barnes, Chief Executive of Zeneca, said:

"These are very strong first half results with substantial underlying growth from all major Zeneca businesses. The Group's performance is the result of the implementation of a consistent strategy to improve the underlying quality of the businesses, and the positive contribution made by our new products.

Whilst the strength of the pound during the first half of the year has had a dampening effect on our results when reported in sterling, underlying growth was well ahead of our aspirational target of 15% per annum."

ZENECA
BRINGING IDEAS TO LIFE

The 1997 Interim Report will be mailed to shareholders. Non-shareholders may obtain copies by writing to The Secretary, Zeneca Group PLC, 15 Stanhope Gate, London W1Y 6LN or by e-mail request to webmaster-zco.zeneca.com

Heinz

Double-digit earnings growth into the next century

Annualized total return of 21.8% over the past 20 years

"Fiscal 1997 was a watershed for H.J. Heinz Company - a point of departure for a new millennium. With exceptional speed and careful deliberation we undertook an ambitious global reorganisation to sharpen our focus, streamline our production and generate significant savings to improve margins and support our brands.

"Project Millennia is expected to generate approximately \$120 million in pretax savings in Fiscal 1998, increasing to about \$200 million upon full implementation. We also expect improved profit margins, higher return on invested capital and greater asset productivity... During the next five years, we anticipate generating free cash flow of over \$2 billion to apply toward debt reduction, acquisitions and share repurchase.

"I want to pay tribute to Heinz employees worldwide who have made Project Millennia a success. The leadership of Bill Johnson as president and COO has been critical to its implementation.

"The directors' commitment to Heinz shareholders is reflected by the annualized total return of 21.8% over the past 20 years, compared to 15.6% for Standard & Poor's 500.

"When I became CEO in 1979, Heinz's market capitalization was \$900 million, today it is \$17 billion... How was it done? By emphasis on big brands, by expansion into new global markets, by product innovation, by low-cost operations, by excellent management and by focusing on shareholders, consumers and customers. We will continue with this winning formula to generate double-digit earnings growth into the next century.

"I am proud to lead one of the world's premier food companies - a global enterprise dedicated to generating exceptional shareholder value."



Dr. A.J.E. O'Reilly
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



Mr. William R. Johnson
President and Chief Operating Officer

The above is extracted from the statement to shareholders of H.J. Heinz Company by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. A.J.E. O'Reilly for the year to 30 April, 1997.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Second liners join in the scramble towards 5,100

SHARE prices extended their record-breaking run, unperurbed by the Bank of England's decision to hoist interest rates another quarter point to 7 per cent.

The rise was made all the more palatable for investors by the comments from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank, suggesting that further rises would not be necessary, for the time being at least.

As a result, the pound lost three pence against the dollar as share prices raced away. The FTSE 100 index launched an assault on the 5,100 level, touching a best ever 5,095.3 before settling 60.6 up at 5,086.8.

Turnover reached 1.3 billion shares, with the bull market spilling over into second liners, where interest focused on engineering companies and exporters. For once the FTSE 250 was able to outperform blue chips as it closed 80.9 up at 4,598.2.

Bardays Bank, up 120p at £14.47, provided a support to the market with better than expected half-year figures and the promise to return £700 million back to shareholders.

But there was a disappointing response to trading news from Rank Group, which is headed by Andrew Teare, chief executive, down 30p at 340p. Rank's international 40p off at 500p, and Shell, 14p lower at 458p.

The weaker pound brought a revival in fortunes to the likes of Cobham, up 43p at 738p, Eurotherm, 17p to 356p, Glywood International, 25p to 248p, Morgan Crucible, 24p to 476p, Vickers, 16p to 202p, Caradon, 14p to 211p, and IMI, 32p to 373p.

Builders also saw revived support after spending the past month in the wilderness. Bryant Group climbed 16p to 141p, Beazer 16p to 172p, Wilson (Connolly) 15p to 169p, Hepworth 15p to 228p and Redland 21p to 308p.

Unilever raced up a further 48p to £19.12, extending its two-day gain to 75p. As highlighted in *The Times* earlier this week, the company has been talking to US investors and clearly made a favourable impression.

BOC was another firm spot, adding 26p at £11.71 after Zeneca expressed interest in buying its Ohmeda



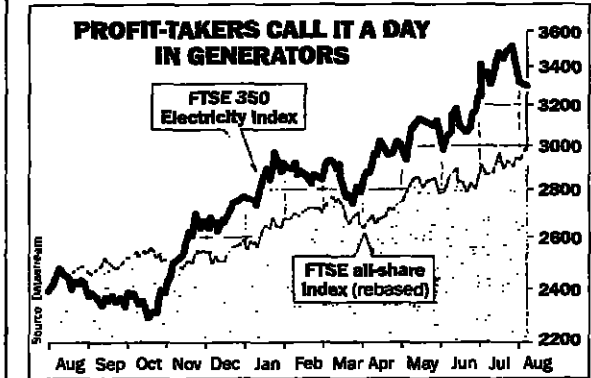
Andrew Teare, of Rank, who saw the shares fall 30p

Healthcare business. Brokers say the business could fetch up to £1 billion. Zeneca touched £19.77 before bouncing back to close 6p better at £20.52 on trading news.

There were further signs of revived institutional demand in the paper and packaging sector with Arjo Wiggins 18p dearer at 192p, Buxton 12p better at 206p, Rexam 19p at 302p, and David S

Smith 17p at 212p. Brokers have begun taking the view that the sector is oversold after underperforming the rest of the market since October last year.

BICC came close to its low for the year, slipping 1p to 160p, after 150p, ahead of half-year figures next week. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Merrill Lynch were both reputed to have turned



THE power generators enjoyed an early mark-up before closing down on their best of the day. National Power rose 12p to 536p, after touching 553p, while PowerGen advanced 10p to 718p, and Scottish Hydro on 43p to 252p.

The improvement was attributed to a revival of US buying although Ian Graham, chief at NatWest Securities in Edinburgh, said this was not evident from where he was sitting.

"There has been profit taking during the past ten

days but it's got to the stage where it has been overdone. It's very gone too far downward."

NatWest continues to urge clients to "add" both National Power and PowerGen to their portfolios. "Both of them represent good long-term value."

The fears surrounding the generators have been overdone. Things do not go up in a straight line," he added.

As for the two generators north of the border, "I see more value in Scottish Power than Scottish Hydro," he quipped.

bearish. Henderson Crowthwaite became worried about the group's recovery programme back in June, when the shares were trading around the 175p level.

More than doubled interim profits at Robert Walters was rewarded with a leap of 39p to 295p. Collins Stewart, the house broker, is excited about prospects for the recruitment specialist. It has raised its forecast for the current year from £5.3 million to £7 million and for 1998 from £6 million to £9.5 million.

Brokers reported a bear squeeze in Jarvis, 13p dearer at 244p. Peel Hunt, the broker, is expected to publish a "buy" recommendation on the former high-flyer today. The shares hit a peak of 314p earlier this year.

Brokers appear to be getting cold feet about Psion, which closed 1p lighter at 282p. A combination of the strong pound and higher start-up costs, relating to its new range of personal organisers, could depress profits.

Country Casuals continued to lose ground after announcing the breakdown of various bid approaches earlier this week. The company now plans to expand the Country Casuals chain of shops. The shares ended 6p lower at 110p.

A profits warning left Aspen Group nursing a fall of 12p at 132p. The group says it has problems at its specialist printing division, which would leave profits "materially below" last year's levels.

GILT-EDGED: The broad hint from the Bank of England that interest rates had probably peaked was seized upon enthusiastically by investors in the gilt market. The short end outperformed longer dated issues after the September short sterling futures contract rose nine ticks to 92.91.

Elsewhere in the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt jumped £1 to £115.32 as a total of 130,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1.60 better at £103, while at the end of Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was just seven ticks higher at £104.

NEW YORK: Shares eased from opening highs as profit-takers moved in and the strong technology sector paused for breath. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 3.48 points higher at 8,262.79.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 8262.79 (+3.48)
S&P Composite 959.69 (+0.43)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19475.85 (+226.22)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 16673.27 (+131.67)

Amsterdam:
EEX index 1010.97 (+18.08)

Sydney:
AS 2717.70 (+9.40)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4414.35 (+78.99)

Singapore:
Straits 1953.24 (+5.30)

Brussels:
General 14085.60 (+54.72)

Paris:
CAC-40 3056.34 (+19.25)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1236.90 (+30.60)

London:
FT 30 3222.3 (+62.6)
FTSE 100 5086.8 (+60.6)
FTSE 250 4598.2 (+80.9)
FTSE 350 2432.3 (+31.3)
FTSE All-Share 2794.8 (+45.0)
FTSE 100-Share 2360.6 (+25.3)
FTSE Non Financials 2362.16 (+25.19)
FTSE Fixed Interest 116.99 (+1.74)
FTSE Govt Secs 97.10 (+0.09)
Brent Crude 1277.99 (+1.50)
US\$ 1.5899 (+0.016)
Ocean Freight 2.9707 (+0.0116)
Exchange Index 102.8 (+0.1)
Bank of England official base rate 7.25%
EBCU 1.3194
RPI 157.5 Jun (0.9%) Jan 1997-100
RPIX 156.7 Jun (2.7%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Blillion 228 + 2 1/2
Blakes Clothing 73p
Blakes West Brf 108p + 1 1/2
Cannell Laird 118p + 1
Delcam 267p
EMI B 115
Fairplace Consulting 3p
GR Holdings 65
Green Group 133p + 1 1/2
Hilton Publsh 102p + 1
Hitachi Credit (UK) 148p
Ionica Group 382p - 1
Kingfisher Leisure 175p
Metroline 215p
Rebourne Merit 100p + 1 1/2
SIS Group 139p
Ted Baker 139p
Thorn B 20p
Viglen Technology 61

RIGHTS ISSUES

Active Imp n/p (10) 1
Fortune Oil n/p (11) 3
Golden Land n/p (21) 16 1/2
Logica n/p (60) 162 1/2
Lon Bld Strw C n/p (11) 1 1/2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Lord 385p (+36p)
Crest 178p (+16p)
Chester 182p (+11p)
McKenzie 439p (+35p)
Redland 308p (+21p)
Laporte 707p (+148p)
REXAM 302p (+19p)
BSC 200p (+11p)
Serpent 350p (+21p)
BBA 382p (+21p)
BTR 197p (+10p)
FALLS:
Rank Gp 340p (-30p)
Reed Int 300p (-40p)
Old Eng Pub 295p (-14p)
Kwik Save 313p (-13p)
Carlton Comm 491p (-9p)
Granada 805p (-14p)
Goerne King 700p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 27

TEMPUS

Shell's spending cure

INVESTORS were almost as dismayed by Shell's interim results as they were cheered earlier, this week by BP's figures. With second-quarter profits of £1.07 billion, Shell came in below the lowest City forecasts, and immediately prompted at least one new sell note. For all this, oil investors would be unwise to decamp to BP lock, stock and barrel. While the recent surge in Shell's share price may have come to an end, Shell is at least addressing its problems.

The biggest of these, and the most marked contrast to BP, is its return on capital. Shell makes a miserly 11.5 per cent against BP's industry-leading 18 per cent. Shell has now set itself a new minimum threshold of 12 per cent and is hoping to crank up returns to 12.5 per cent next year. This is not a demanding target. Traditionalists would argue that this does

not bode well. It is true that Shell looks unlikely to catch up with BP soon. But this view neglects the fact that part of the reason for the low return is that capital expenditure has fallen. While this diminishes opportunities for explosive growth it also means that Shell companies around the globe are more frugal. While everyone would like Shell to invest wisely, the worry is that pressure to perform will make it waste money.

Shell cannot easily match BP with plans to buy back shares. Its dual corporate structure makes it inefficient for the Dutch half to contemplate buybacks at present. Though Shell is negotiating hard with the Dutch authorities, a successful outcome to these talks, and a more measured approach to capital expenditure, should underpin Shell's share price in the long term.

Telewest

AMID a mass of statistics on customer numbers, market penetration and churn rates, it was just about possible to discern the endgame. Telewest has been working towards since it floated in 1994. This will come as a relief to shareholders who have seen the share price descend from 180p at flotation to just 83p.

These results effectively draw a line under the first phase of the company's development, in which it has spent vast sums (£252 million) in the first half to build a network as quickly as possible.

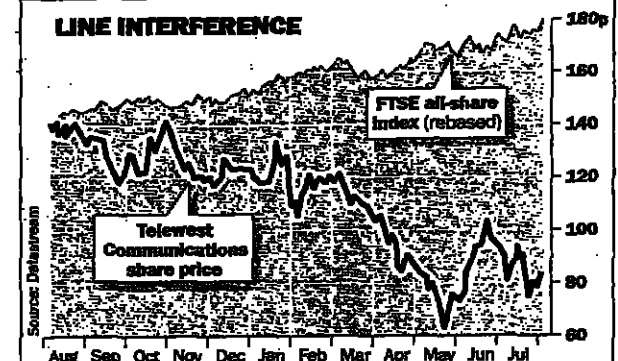
With this now 70 per cent complete, the emphasis will shift to marketing the programmes and telephony services it is selling, and ensuring its customer service is up to scratch. This will

enable it to save £40 million a year by cutting the number of construction workers, at an annual saving of £40 million, and should bring in more customers and reduce churn rates.

Cable TV penetration — the percentage of subscribers from the potential audience — was only about 22 per cent in the first half. The churn

rate — when customers cancel subscriptions — was 32 per cent.

Telewest is reckoned to be heading to make its first profits about the year 2000. Although a merger with its rival NTL may help, many believe the quality and flexibility of the service must improve before Telewest can flourish.



Zeneca

SOME idea of Zeneca's strengths can be gauged from the recent City worries centred on Zestril, the £600 million-a-year heart drug whose patent does not expire until the end of 2001. Sir David Barnes yesterday acknowledged that the loss of sales could mean Zeneca's earnings growth will drop below 10 per cent from 2002, but this is a problem the company has four-and-a-half years to fix. Crisis this is not.

In the meantime, the company's 15 per cent growth target is underpinned by its impressive roster of new products. The schizophrenia drug Serenquel received its UK approval this week, the latest addition to a list that includes Accolate for asthma, Zomig for migraine, the Merrem antibiotic, and a variety of new cancer drugs. Zeneca has another 45 pharmaceuticals in the pipeline.

The less glamorous agrochemicals business, which

contributed £218 million to half-year operating profits of £660 million, is also well placed. It is already rolling out Amistar, an important new fungicide. Behind this, according to Sir David, is "the best quality product pipeline we've ever had".

Zeneca's merits are well appreciated, and its shares have this year risen from less than £16 to just above £20.50 yesterday. Supporters justify the heavy valuation by pointing to the even more exciting ratings offered by the leading US drug groups. Increasingly topsy stock markets make this a dubious yardstick, but there are few doubts about Zeneca's longer term attractions.

Royal Sun

AFTER a brush with a City watchdog earlier this week over allegedly missing a deadline in its pensions mis-selling clear-up, yesterday's interim figures came as a tonic to Royal & Sun Alliance.

Investors now have a full year of results since the two insurers merged in May last year. They suggest real progress in achieving the cost savings of £175 million a year. The company has made a massive cut in its workforce, but has been slow to deal with duplication at executive level. The two finance directors are the most glaring example.

The restructuring was blamed for the group missing out on the Pepsco buy, its retail investment operation seeing sales almost halved. Royal & Sun says it has been selective in taking new general business while rates are soft, allowing cheaper competitors to take market share. Net premiums written fell in general from 1996 levels, particularly in the US, where reciprocal reinsurance agreements with Chubb ended. While underwriting seems much improved from the bad days of the early 1990s, the shares are a hold.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE			
	Aug	Sep	Oct
Cocoa	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Dec	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Mar	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Jul	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Nov	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Volume 23M			
ROBUSTA COFFEE (C)			
	Aug	Sep	Oct
Dec	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Mar	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Jul	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Nov	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Volume 23M			
WHITE SUGAR (F)			
	Aug	Sep	Oct
Dec	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Mar	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Jul	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Nov	1011-1117	1011-1117	1011-1117
Volume 15M			

COMMODITIES			
LIFFE OILS (London 60000)			
CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel FOB)			
Brent 15 day (Sep)		18.05	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Oct)		18.05	-0.15
WTI Intermediate (Sep)		20.15	-0.10
WTI Intermediate (Oct)		20.15	-0.10
WTI Intermediate (Nov)		20.15	-0.10
WTI Intermediate (Dec)		20.15	-0.10
WTI Intermediate (Jan)		20.15	-0.10
PRODUCTS (\$/MT)			
Spot Cif New York (prompt delivery)			
Premium Unul	228 (-3)	232 (+7)	
Cold 55 Fuel Oil	19.75 (-1)	19.75 (-1)	
35 Fuel Oil	6.1 (-2)	6.1 (-2)	
Naphtha	14.1 (-1)	14.1 (-1)	
IPE FUTURES (Lm/Lm)			
GAS OIL			
Aug	172.50-75.75	Dec	170.75-77.50
Sep	172.50-75.75	Jan	170.75-77.50
Oct	172.50-75.75	Feb	170.75-77.50
Nov	172.50-75.75	Mar	170.75-77.50
BRENT (Bd/MT)			
Aug	19.05-19.15	Dec	19.30-19.10
Sep	19.05-19.15	Jan	19.30-19.10
Oct	19.05-19.15	Feb	19.30-19.10
Nov	19.05-19.15	Mar	19.30-19.10
COPPER (Ct/Volune per day)			
Copper Gde A (10mm)		London	239.00
Latid (10mm)			404.00
Zinc Spec H Gde (10mm)			364.00
Zinc Spec H Gde (10mm)			364.00
Copper Gde A (10mm)			397.00
Latid (10mm)			397.00
Zinc Spec H Gde (10mm)			397.00
Zinc Spec H Gde (10mm)			397.00

Rate rise pales beside rare pledge on future increases

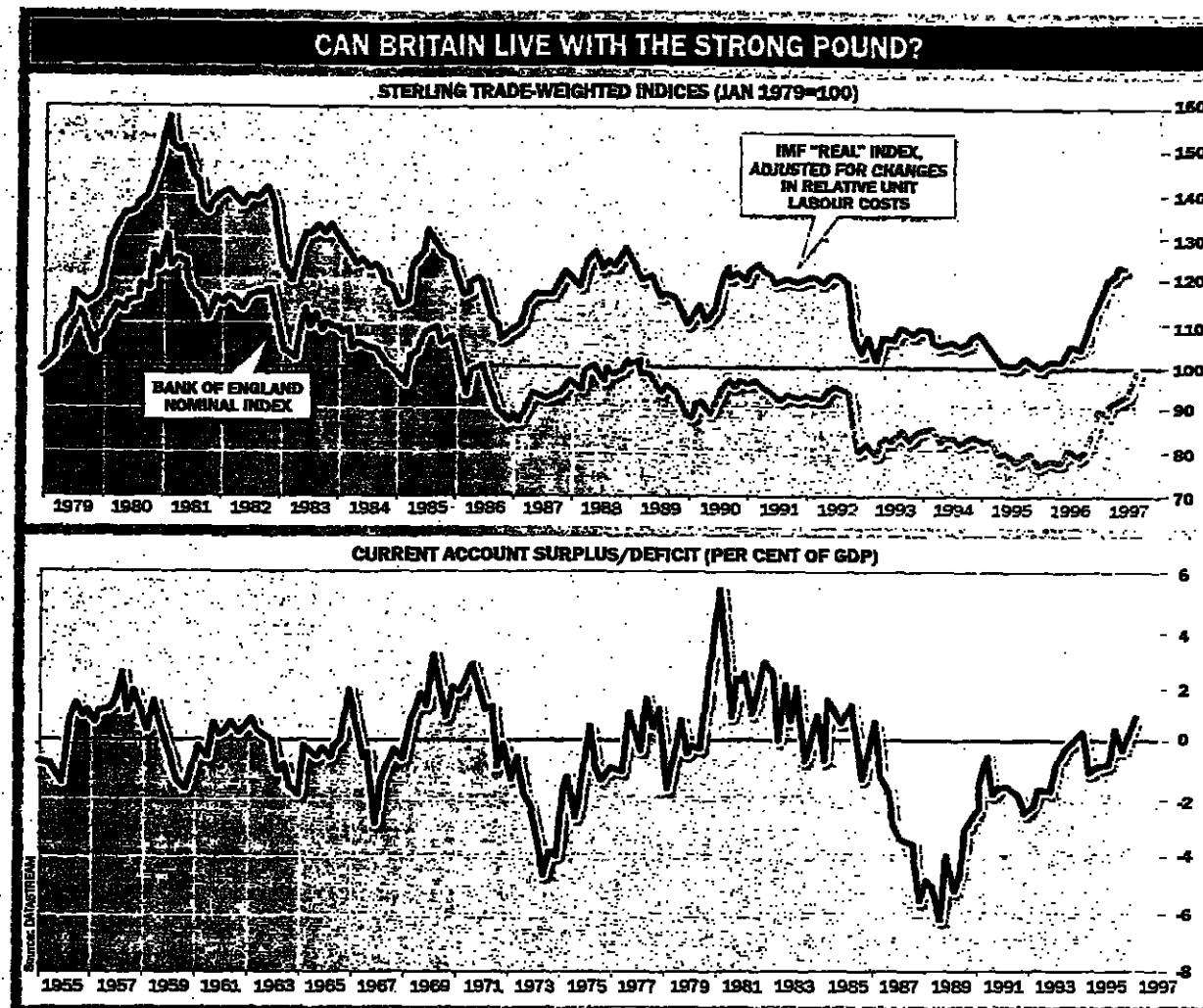
Pain of latest interest rise alleviated by the benefits of lowered expectations

The Bank of England's decision to raise interest rates yesterday — for the fourth time in four months — was almost certainly a mistake, but not as bad a mistake as might have been expected. Inflation in Britain today is virtually nonexistent and prices are going to be squeezed still further in the months ahead by the strength of the pound. According to internationally comparable figures produced by the European Commission, Britain's inflation is only 1.7 per cent, almost exactly in line with the EU average. In spite of the fact that Britain is the only major economy in Europe not in the midst of a slump.

Looking at the main structural causes of inflation — government deficits, commodity prices and the social struggle over distribution of income and wealth — there are no serious worries. Public-sector borrowing is firmly under control and commodity prices are falling in terms of sterling. The labour market, where the root causes of inflation are usually to be found, is remarkably quiescent. There are no signs of trade union militancy and the rate of increase of average wages has actually declined slightly to 4 per cent. This rate of wage increase would be compatible with the Bank's 2.5 per cent inflation target even if productivity in the economy were growing by only 1.5 per cent.

It seems, in short, that stable prices can now be maintained at far lower levels of unemployment than those considered safe a few years ago. This is hardly surprising: after two decades of mass unemployment, trade union reform and global competitive pressure, workers are more nervous about their jobs and fearful of making extravagant wage demands. Professional economists who prefer to bury their heads in computer printouts than to look at the world around them, are astonished by this turn of events. But for laymen, who can see that inflation is no longer the dominant problem of the British economy, it is hard to understand why the Bank continues to tighten the monetary garrote.

The main issue that economic policy should now be addressing is not price stability, but the still inadequate level of demand, along with all the attendant social dislocations: long-term unemployment; growing inequality between rich and poor; low levels of industrial investment. A secondary, tactical, objective for economic policy should be to achieve a better balanced



economic expansion. Monetary policy should, in theory, be directed towards reducing the value of the pound. This would channel demand towards industry and exports, while a tighter fiscal policy could keep consumer spending within moderate limits. But all this talk of "rebalancing" the economic recovery after the election, so popular in the City and the industrial lobbies before the Budget, has been just that — empty words. Once Gordon Brown made the Bank of England independent all the discussions about rebalancing the economy, achieving investment-led growth and maintaining a competitive exchange rate became just theoretical speculation. In practice, central bank independence makes it impossible to co-ordinate monetary, fiscal and exchange-rate policies. Instead of speculating about what policy might have been in a Panglossian best-of-all-possible-worlds, we should look at what was probable under the institutional arrangements created by Mr Brown.

Against this background, yesterday's decision by the monetary policy committee was a lot less bad than might have been expected. The key event was not the increase in base rates from 6.75 to 7 per cent, but the statement from the Bank that came with it: that interest rates were now at a "level consistent with the economy hitting the inflation target". This was a very unusual public promise to desist from any further monetary tightening in the immediate future. It had an electrifying effect on financial markets. After wobbling for a few

minutes, as they swallowed the Bank's sugar-coated pill, the financial markets sent bond and equity prices sharply higher. The Life interest-rate futures market, which had been anticipating three-month interest rates of 7.5 per cent and rising by Christmas, immediately adjusted these expectations sharply downwards. By yesterday evening, the Life futures showed interest rates peaking at 7.3 per cent in December and then declining gently to 7.2 per cent in December 1998 and beyond.

The beneficial effects of these lower interest-rate expectations exceeded the pain of

6 Main issue of economic policy is inadequate demand

yesterday's quarter-point increase in overnight rates. The most important manifestation of this tension between higher interest rates today and lower expectations for the future was, as usual, in the currency market. After bidding sterling up for a few minutes in a knee-jerk reaction, investors quickly had second thoughts and knocked the pound down by five pence and three US cents. The most important single question for the British economy now is whether yesterday's reversal will mark the beginning of a sustained weakening of sterling or will prove simply to have been a

launching pad for the next stage of the pound's ascent into the stratosphere.

The Bank obviously hopes to see the pound weaken further, as it made quite clear by linking its promise not to raise interest rates to a comment about the deflationary effect of the strong pound. The question, however, is not what the Bank wants but whether it will do anything to keep the pound down. Persuading the markets that interest rates will not rise much beyond 7 per cent is all very well, but once investors recover from the shock of yesterday's announcement they may well decide that British interest rates are attractive enough to keep buying sterling even without the prospect of any further monetary tightening. After all, short-term rates are only 3.1 per cent in Germany and France, 5.6 per cent in America and 0.5 per cent in Japan. Even in Italy, three-month rates are more than a quarter point below the British level. International investors will find the uniquely high yields on British government bonds equally compelling.

Of course, interest rates alone will not determine what happens to sterling. If the pound was expected to fall back to DM2.50 in the coming months, then investors would dump it regardless of the high interest rates on offer in Britain. If, on the other hand, there were overwhelming reasons to expect a resumption of the rise above DM3, then the 7 per cent rate offered by the Bank of England would be more than sufficient to pull in hot money from all corners of the world.

Unfortunately for Britain's manufacturers and exporters, the pound looks more plausible at DM3 than DM2.50 for the foreseeable future. Not only has the mark been subjected to a takeover bid by France, Italy and Spain, more importantly the German and Continental economies need still weaker currencies to become internationally competitive. Germany's production costs are still too high, even with the pound worth DM2. As long as Germany and other European countries remain deep in recession with double-digit unemployment rates, the large trade surpluses they boast are indicators not of competitive strength but of economic weakness. Britain, by contrast, is running a modest current account surplus while enjoying strong consumption and decent employment growth.

So is the pound "overvalued" at DM3? If the British economy was allowed to grow by 3 per cent plus for another two years and unemployment fell to the 4 or 5 per cent, as in America, Britain's current account surplus would doubtless turn to deficit and the pound would probably depreciate to the levels required to keep more exporters in business.

But what if the Bank insists on restraining economic growth to the alleged "trend" rate of 2.25 per cent and keeps tightening monetary policy every time unemployment threatens to fall below 6 per cent? There will then be every reason for the pound to remain above DM3 — and for British exporters to go out of business.

Is Gates the right choice to restore Apple-pie order?

Rachel Oldroyd says the rescue by Microsoft's founder could prove damaging in the long run

Bill Gates likes to use his cash to help out the needy. But who expected him to give a helping hand to save a once bitter rival Apple Computer. To the many people who worship the Apple brand in an almost cultish fashion, Gates's \$150 million (£94 million) gesture is a Trojan horse from a man they see as a Satan.

The audience boomed and hissed as Stephen Jobs, the legendary co-founder of Apple who now appears to be back in command, announced the link with Microsoft at the MacWorld Trade Show in Boston on Tuesday.

The community of Apple users — mainly design houses, publishers and schools — has been a bastion of Microsoft hatred where its leader is seen as the devil incarnate. To those who resisted the Microsoft pull despite all Apple's troubles, the news was a nightmare come true. The bespectacled computer boffin, with his carefully chosen words, iron will, and marketing powers, had arrived at Apple. What was their hero Jobs doing letting such a heresy be committed? Rumour has it that it was Jobs himself who phoned Gates to invite him on board.

For Apple to invite its persecutor to help in its rescue is strange. The two companies have fought a bitter legal battle in which Apple claimed that Microsoft had copied the "look and feel" of its Macintosh operating system to create its Windows operating system.

Apple lost the battle in the courts, while in the market place Apple's sales force was defeated by Microsoft's superior marketing skills. Gradually, the software giant has eaten into Apple's share of the operating systems market until today it has little more than 7 per cent.

After Gil Amelio, the former Apple president, was ousted from Apple last month, Jobs decided to take hold of the reins and get his baby back on the road to recovery. He is a proud man who, like his followers, has always maintained that Apple's software is superior to that of Microsoft. But to repair the damage, he has had to swallow his pride and ask for help from all the big shots in the computer industry. These include the all-powerful Gates and Larry Ellison, the flamboyant head of database giant Oracle.

The coming together of these two personalities is perhaps the most extraordinary part of the deal. For Microsoft, Apple is a has-been that today hardly represents any threat. The real thorn in Gates's side is Oracle and it's troublesome leader, Ellison. Ellison has made no attempt to hide his dislike for the Microsoft founder. "All you need now is Andy Grove of Intel to walk in and you turn it into a perfect soap opera," says Clive Longbottom of the technology analysts The Meta Group.

Larry Ellison's ego, which is huge by all accounts, has not taken too kindly to Gates's domination of the software market and, in particular, the computer's oper-

ating system. In an attempt to break Gates's stranglehold on the industry, Ellison is recruiting all his mates into an attempt to undermine Microsoft's dominance.

Ellison is the man behind the network computer, a cut-down cheap alternative to the PC, which will run non-Windows-based software. If it takes off, it will pose a serious threat to Microsoft. Ellison has managed to persuade many of the technology industry's big boys, including IBM and Sun, to join his gang, and he had been working on Apple. He had even considered buying Apple. The quick-thinking Gates,



the battle for control of the Internet. Apple had forged a strong relationship with Netscape, there were even rumours that Jim Barksdale of Netscape would be given a position on the Apple board.

Gates managed to keep Barksdale out and will, through the back door, temper Ellison's influence. Although Microsoft will not hold any voting shares in the company, through his investment, Gates has managed to get his fingers in the Apple pie.

The cross-licensing agreement is also important to Microsoft. Ironically, the software giant is the largest seller of Apple-based software, and the license agreement, which will allow each company to develop software for the other, will ensure the continuation of Microsoft's presence in the Apple world. Apple is also going to favour Microsoft's Internet browser, Explorer, over Netscape's browser.

Finally, there is the issue of anti-competitive business practices. If Apple were to disappear, Microsoft would completely control the computer operating system market worldwide, a move that could prompt the US Government to force Microsoft to split its software applications arm from its operating systems business.

Adam Banks, editor of MacUser, the trade bible, says: "It is in Microsoft's interests to support Apple. It is certainly not in its interests to see the company disappear." For \$150 million, Microsoft has secured Apple's friendship, and directed the company down a pro-Windows path. And for poor old Apple, far from saving the company, Gates's involvement could mean that it loses its greatest asset, its creativity.

Dale Bevington, chairman of the IT group at the Design Business Association, explains: "Many people have been worried about what is going to happen to Apple. But I don't think Microsoft's investment means everybody in the design industry is saved." Apple has too many problems. According to Longbottom, the company most needs a level-headed chief executive who will do what Lou Gerstner has done for IBM. Apple users secretly hope that their leader will be Jobs, but he is probably not the right man to steer Apple out of the mess. They can't use technology to get themselves out of this mess, and Jobs is a technologist. He is the wrong man for the job. If he gets the job, you might as well write Apple off," says Longbottom.

With so many personalities now involved in the company, it will take a very brave man to walk into the chief executive's position at Apple. "The problem with Apple is that it has always had too many people trying to strap their agenda onto the problem," Longbottom says.

Too many cooks spoil the broth and at Apple there is now the equivalent of Marco Pierre White, Anton Mosimann and Nico Ladenis.

All in a name

THE Paul Zimmerman saga rumbles on. Readers may recall that Michael Page, the recruitment group, found itself in a sticky situation when "Zimmerman" — no one of that name actually works for Page — telephoned Douglas Liambias Associates (DLA), a high-class competitor, and requested the names of candidates for a search in Poland, passing himself off as someone from WPP, the advertising group. Page was rumbled, and tried to blame the whole thing on a junior employee,

who had committed a one-off and was due for "a right bollocking".

Now, the plot has taken a sensational turn. Zimmerman, according to sources close to the affair, is not a junior Page employee after all, but someone far higher up the food chain — even, dare I say it, as high as director level. Worse, the offender has allegedly been using the pseudonym in the market for years. A shocking affair. No comment from Page. A dignified silence from DLA.

Hall adds up

FOR once in the nasty world of business, selfishness has been rewarded. A few weeks ago, Nigel Hall was quietly getting on with his job as Burton's group information systems director. Then its demerger was announced. Realising that his job was about to evaporate — soon there won't be a group as such — he bravely told John Hoerner, the expansive chief executive, that he would oversee the demerger and then leave, winning him the bizarre title of director of the demerger process. Pretty grim. But all has ended well for Hall, who has been given



the finance directorship vacated by Andrew Higginson, who has departed to Tesco.

Many a slip

AFTER sitting on the board of a car body manufacturer for four years, what better way to shake off the boredom than dusting down a few share options and splitting them with your wife? So thought Victor Whitmore, director of Mayflower, who nipped out to the market yesterday. But dealers sat bolt upright when the news flashed on the screen that he snapped up the options at a giveaway 0.53p apiece. Selling at 164.2p a share would make a whopping £327,000 profit. Turns out that ink had

smudged the options book, and that he had really bought the shares for 53p. The couple still walk away with £561,000 in cash and a straight profit of £222,000 between them.

Sea tests

SIR Robin Knox-Johnston, the first man to sail solo non-stop around the world, has teamed up with British Aerospace in a bid to capture more than 20 of the world's most coveted speed and endurance sailing records. He will attempt the feat in a new 120 ft catamaran, fitted with BAE gizmos, culminating in the "The Race", the French-organised Round the World Race scheduled to start on New Year's Eve 2000. The record for the fastest world circumnavigation stands at 71 days, 14 hours.

THEY know a thing or two about conflicts of interest up in Tyneside. Eight Newcastle City councillors, including Tony Flynn, the council leader, have excluded themselves from the vote on whether Newcastle United can build its new stadium at Castle Leazes. The reason — they are all Newcastle United season ticket holders. My only question — how come only eight?

JON ASHWORTH

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"Two fat ladies... 88! A disappointed chairman... it's 83!"

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Gains across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
AB InBev	12.45	+0.10	+0.8	18.5
Carlsberg	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	15.2
Heineken	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	14.8
Interbrew	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	13.5
Kaiser Brewery	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	12.1
Miller Brewing	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	11.5
Stout & Nott	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	10.8
Tennent	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	9.5
Watney	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	8.8
Wm Whitbread	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	8.2

BANKS

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Barclays	12.50	+0.15	+1.2	12.5
Bank of Scotland	11.80	+0.10	+0.8	11.8
First Direct	10.50	+0.05	+0.5	10.5
Halifax	9.80	+0.03	+0.3	9.8
HSBC	8.50	+0.02	+0.2	8.5
London City	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Midland	6.50	+0.01	+0.1	6.5
NatWest	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
Paragon	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Prudential	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Beck's	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Carlsberg	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Heineken	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Interbrew	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Kaiser Brewery	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Miller Brewing	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Stout & Nott	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Tennent	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
Watney	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Wm Whitbread	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Arrol-Johnston	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Balfour Beatty	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Bechtel	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Bois	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Chambers	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Costain	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
David Bull	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Heath	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Arrol-Johnston	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Balfour Beatty	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Bechtel	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Bois	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Chambers	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Costain	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
David Bull	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Heath	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

CHEMICALS

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Arrol-Johnston	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Balfour Beatty	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Bechtel	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Bois	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Chambers	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Costain	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
David Bull	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Heath	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

DISTRIBUTORS

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Arrol-Johnston	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Balfour Beatty	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Bechtel	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Bois	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Chambers	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Costain	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
David Bull	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Heath	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Arrol-Johnston	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Balfour Beatty	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Bechtel	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Bois	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Chambers	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Costain	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
David Bull	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Heath	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Arrol-Johnston	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Balfour Beatty	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Bechtel	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Bois	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Chambers	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Costain	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
David Bull	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Heath	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

ELECTRICITY

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Arrol-Johnston	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Balfour Beatty	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Bechtel	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Bois	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Chambers	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Costain	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
David Bull	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Heath	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Arrol-Johnston	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Balfour Beatty	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Bechtel	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Bois	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Chambers	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Costain	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
David Bull	5.20	+0.01	+0.2	5.2
Heath	4.80	+0.01	+0.2	4.8

ENGINEERING

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
Arrol-Johnston	12.50	+0.10	+0.8	12.5
Balfour Beatty	11.80	+0.05	+0.4	11.8
Bechtel	10.50	+0.02	+0.2	10.5
Bois	9.80	+0.01	+0.1	9.8
Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
Chambers	7.20	+0.01	+0.1	7.2
Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
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Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
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Brace	8.50	+0.03	+0.4	8.5
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Concor	6.50	+0.02	+0.3	6.5
Costain	5.80	+0.01	+0.2	5.8
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Neil Cooper counts down the line-up for Flux, the new festival on the fringe of Edinburgh's Fringe



The organisers of Flux hope to marry the more interesting end of pop — such as Stephen Jones's Babybird — with what could be regarded as the more novel side of the avant-garde.

Ready to Auld Reekie'n'roll?

There have been so many "new" rock'n'rollers over the past few years that it's been difficult to make sense of things because of the racket made by the marketing people. If the Edinburgh Fringe is a barometer of how things are swinging, though, comedy, performance poetry and whatever this week's thing is are about to be drowned out by the real thing.

With the advent of Flux, a new contemporary music festival featuring the likes of the

Divine Comedy and the Wannadies, music has for the first time in many a year eclipsed its johnny-come-lately rivals to become the second biggest art form on the Fringe, after theatre.

Flux is the brainchild of David Sefton, former music journalist and current head of artistic development at the Festival Hall, and Alex Poots, Barbican Centre artistic consultant. Sefton is responsible for the Meltdown festivals, which this year featured a host of eclectic acts, headed by

Laurie Anderson. Together, they form USP Arts, which has taken over an 800-capacity former student union in the heart of Edinburgh in order to mount a series of musical events that marries the more interesting end of pop with what has often been seen as the more novel side of the avant-garde.

In this way, Acid Brass and Steve Martland nestle snugly next to the legendary German group Faust, while Teenage Fanclub, Babybird, Tindersticks, Heaven 17 and even Midge Ure join in too. Probably the most daring piece of programming, though, and one which seems to sum up the spirit of the festival, is Michael Nyman's collaboration with pop fops, the Divine Comedy — or Neil Hannon, as he is known to his friends.

"I feel quite proud," says an ebullient Sefton the day after sitting in on rehearsals for the project. "You would never see Michael Nyman in the official Edinburgh Festival, because they put on an Establishment-approved variety of contemporary music. For something that calls itself the world's biggest arts festival, there just seems to be such a glaringly perverse gap."

"We had a really clear idea of what we wanted to do," says Poets, "in that new classical music meets the intelligent end of pop. But we're also taking in techno and jazz."

Not everyone has been pleased about Flux's impending arrival in Edinburgh scene. A radio debate that looked at music's new status on the Fringe, as well as tackling the thorny issue of whether comedy was on the wane, saw sparks fly between Sefton and Karen Koren, head honcho of the Gilded Balloon, probably the Fringe's top comedy venue. Sefton somewhat colourfully described comedy as a bindweed that had grown completely out of control and choked everything in its path. Koren was understandably less than impressed.

Is Flux, though, not just another case of a bunch of London-centric famous names parachuting into town and clearing up — not that different from what some people say comedy has been doing, in fact?

"If you put famous names on, you're always susceptible to that kind of criticism," Sefton says. "We've tried to be conscious of not stealing other people's thunder, but, at the same time, we wanted to produce a coherent festival with a broad appeal. Trying to do both it's hard not to look arrogant, which is why we've put our money where our mouths are and done the other things."

The "other things" include a substantial Scot-heavy home team, which as well as Teenage Fanclub (who have now added a second night to their




Collaborators Neil Hann

to complement Flux even further, a groundswell of local activity has already made some headway. Last year, in the Cas Rock, a pub half the size of Flux's venue, local promoters began Planet Pop, a gig-fest which ran every night, and had similar aims as Flux, if not the first weight of its resources. All three bands on Flux's Scottish night cut their performance teeth at Planet Pop, while Teenage Fancub closed that festival. (Planet Pop is back this year, too, heading to Manchester, starting in the Fall in an increasingly fashionable return to grassroots gigs.)

For Setton and Poots, this is one of Flux's most important elements. "It offers a unique chance to see something quite special in an intimate space," says Poots, while Setton points out that, while the Divine Comedy could pack out a 3,000-seater venue on their own, they might not want that added pressure while embarking on such a potentially risky venture as the one with Nyman.

For Babybird's Stephen Jones, though, things have come full circle all too quickly. Only a year ago he was still on the mid-scale touring circuit. But when the single *You're Gorgeous* went ballistic, Jones suddenly found himself playing with the big boys. It may have been too much too soon, but Flux should provide a midway point before Jones and his cottage industry get to grips with real fame.


Flux's intimacy may not last, however. Big things are promised for next year's extravaganza, which both Sefton and Poots see as a long-term enterprise. Good or bad, it's the music fan who wins in the end. "Without wanting to sound poncey," says Sefton, "what we're doing is more



son (left) and Michael Nymann

anti-modernism than post-modernism. Where modernism came out and very proudly said "We will lock ourselves away, we will not receive outside influence, and we will be deliberately perverse", what we're saying is quite the reverse. We are open to influence, we are interested in what other people are interested in, and we want to adapt."

Who best to sum up? Why



right), plus the Wannadies

not someone who features heavily in both the Fringe theatre programme and the official one, but who has yet to be declared the new rock'n'roll, or the new anything, come to that, even though he might well have gone there first: "Play on. Give me excess of it." Aye. There's the rub all right.

● Flux is at the Jaffa Cake, King Stables Road, Edinburgh (0131 557 6969), from August 12 to 31

You're in no fit States to travel

Advice to young and thrusting British bands considering conquering America: don't bother

Prodigy have "broken" America. Their No 1 album over here, *Fat of the Land*, went straight in at No 1 over there, and they have even gone so far as to turn down Madonna's offer to produce her new album. Short of marrying a Kennedy, a relative of Elvis, or inspiring the carving of two green horns on to one of the figures at Mount Rushmore, Prodigy couldn't be bigger.

No matter that their transatlantic success is down to a bizarre insecurity in the American record-buying population. In America, you see, Prodigy have been marketed as "electronic punk-rock," and Americans react in an odd way when the words "punk rock" are uttered. It grows with these times: cultural imperialists that Britain came up with the neat idea of spiking your hair up in a crazee way and making governments annoyed. And, although American youth can take or leave annoying German punks, there's nothing they like more than doing crazee things with their hair.

distances were measured in days rather than miles. To pass the time, he invented a game called "Sock", where players would take it in turn to put a sock over their head, climb out of the window of their speeding tour van, climb over the roof, and re-enter the van through the opposite window. Other bands indulge in other dangerous time-wasting activities such as drinking until they cannot move or phoning everyone they know on El-a-mina mobile phones.

On top of that, the frustration engendered by giving away a sizeable portion of your life in order to shift fewer than 10,000 albums results in much bitterness; usually exacerbated by playing to drunken boys called Brad and Wade who still haven't worked out that *Beavis and Butthead* is meant to be ironic. Or, indeed a cartoon.

**TLIN
RAN**

Radiohead's *OK Computer* is a perfect case in point. Not surprisingly, when they premiered it in America, they were greeted with chants of "Radiohead suck!" — little surprise when the whole album is about how playing in America can drive you mad.

Attempting to break America is one of the stupidest things a successful British band can do. The expense is phenomenal, the time taken vast, and the mental wear-and-tear is more likely to result in a *Blur* than an *OK Computer*. At most, four British bands a year do well in America. While the Prodigy have a No.1 album under their belt they can tour all the stadiums, hang out with weird girls called Angela Spacetime, and show boys how to do craze things with their hair:

But a word of advice for the slew of bands that will try to follow in their wake, now that British punk-rock electronica is newly fashionable. Don't bother. You'll really miss your *guims*.



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Feeling his own way

■ HOWARD RILEY
Inner Minor (ASC CD16)
PIANIST Howard Riley has been making solo recordings since 1972, and he describes his overall aim as "achieving feeling through spontaneity". Of course the depth of said feeling depends largely on the breadth of jazz-piano knowledge upon which Riley can spontaneously draw, and on this album he utilises not only standard changes (from the

JAZZ ALBUMS

likes of *Darn That Dream*, *Tenderly* and *Star Eyes* but also a vast panoply of pianistic devices from all corners of the jazz tradition to achieve a uniquely personal and hugely enjoyable synthesis. Highlights include *Inner Minor* and *Deflection*, both employing material from earlier works; but a good place to start might be with *Things*, Riley's extraordinary deconstruction of *All The Things You Are*.

■ MONICA VASCONCELOS

Nois (Triple Earth MOVAS 001)
BORN in Sao Paulo, but now resident in the UK, singer Monica Vasconcelos has been blending her particular brand of *Musica Popular Brasileira* (MPB) with jazz since her arrival here in 1992. On this Portuguese-language album, she is joined by Brazilian guitarist Ito Tero and a fairly representative sample of the capital's more open-minded jazz musicians, pianist/arranger Steve Lodder, trumpeter/cellist Paul Jayasinha, saxophonist Ingrid Laubrock and percussionist Paul Clarvis among them. The interface between jazz and MPB has never been busier, and so songwriters represented here — Jobim, Djavan, Ivan Lins — need little introduction, and mixed with Vasconcelos's airy, bright originals, all sing with sensuous grace and played with subtle vigour by her stellar band, their contributions add lustre to a consistently assured debut album.

CHRIS PARKER



Ten years and nine solo albums after the demise of the Smiths, should Morrissey be so *Maladjusted*?

Wanted: fire for the brimstone

MORRISSEY

Maladjusted (Island CID 1CT 5.99 £13.99)
ANNIVERSARIES A 30-year-old... It is 20 years since the break-up of the Smiths. Tears will fall in many a household on both counts, but it is Morrissey's continued survival after the demise of his revered former band which queers the critical pitch the most.

Nine albums into his increasingly quixotic solo career, is it profitable still to lament the break-up of a once-glorious creative partnership with Johnny Marr? Of course, the answer is no. But *Maladjusted*, for all its moments of near-satisfaction, provokes nostalgia all the same: where are the soaring melodies, the chiming guitars, the deftness and grace with which a complementary hand leaved the bequipped one's famous tendency towards morbidly and introversion?

Such virtues are in short supply here, as is another old-fashioned commodity, the tune that can be whistled. That said, Morrissey is in better voice than ever — there are even a few Mariah Carey-ish pyrotechnics on display. And his songwriting remains as singular, provocative and, yes, brave as ever: who else in the British pop arena would address the subject of child abuse with such directness (*Ambitious Outlets*, delivered in tones as soft and enveloping as chloroform on a rug)? There are weak songs, certainly — Roy's *Keen* and *Papa Jack* for starters — and there is the lack of any real centrepiece. Might it have been the absent *Sorrow Will Come in the End*, removed on legal advice for its castigation of former Smiths drummer Mike Joyce, recently successful in litigation against Morrissey?

The celebrated sense of self-referential humour remains intact, though, as in *Wide to Receive* ("I don't get along with myself, and I'm not too keen on anyone else"), and so

POP ALBUMS:

Morrissey is still not comfortable in his solo skin, says Alan Jackson

too does the unerring ability to make tangible the misfit's sense of un-belonging (as in just about every song on the album).

This is not the triumph of 1994's *Vauxhall and I*, but it is also far from the nadir that sceptics will undoubtedly suggest. If anything, it suggests that Morrissey needs a change of supporting personnel (Alain Whyte, Boz Boorer) more than he needs a change of label (this is his first release for Island), and that if we are looking for someone to out-Smith the Smiths, then we are looking towards the wrong man.

NICKY HOLLAND

Sense and Sensuality (Epic 4879932-2 £15.99)
BORN in Hertfordshire but long resident in Manhattan, Holland is of that breed of singer-songwriters who make their living writing material for other, more high-profile artists — in her case Celine Dion, Oliva Adams and Tina Turner. But she has everything it might take to be a star in her own right except, perhaps, the necessary dominant personality.

Of course, comparisons are odious, but Holland's voice is a creamy amalgam of Roberta Flack's and Julia Fordham's: the intelligent, understated writing style, meanwhile, is reminiscent of a Home Counties Carly Simon.

All that said, and with a cast of compositional collaborators that includes Lloyd Cole, Cyndi Lauper and XTC's Andy Partridge, she has

made an album of intelligence, style and affecting insight.

ARKARNA

Fresh Meat (Warner Bros PRCD752 £13.99)
ITS A popular practice these days, that of melding indie attitude with a clubland sensibility: so much so that acts ranging from Everything But The Girl to David Bowie have thrown their hats into the ring, with varying degrees of success.

But no new group has quite laid authoritative claim to the middle ground between alternative heru status (the Prodigy or the Chemicals, say) and that of mainstream boy band pin-up. Which means that Arkarna could well be on to a winner. An insidious single, *House on Fire*, has already grazed the Top 40, and now here comes this, an album chockful of state-of-the-art dance beats, but one diluted for mass consumption by the addition of brash, 1970s-style vocals (think America, or even Simon & Garfunkel) to the otherwise edgy, hyperkinetic mix.

FAIRPORT CONVENTION

Who Knows Where the Time Goes (Mushroom WRCD025 £13.99)
ALTHOUGH more than 30 years into their career, the Fairports appear more constant, committed and energetic than ever, thanks in part to their annual barnstorming of the Cropredy Festival (today and tomorrow at Cropredy, near Banbury, Oxfordshire).

This, their 20th studio LP, takes its title from a new live version of the late Sandy Denny's song, first released by the band in 1969 when she was still a member. Elsewhere, instrumental pieces such as the triumphant *The Bowman's Retreat* rub shoulders with fine new songs by, among others, Anna Ryder, Steve Tilson and Alan Franks, and inevitable crowd-pleasers such as Dave Pegg's reading of Ian Anderson's *Life's a Long Song*.

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TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) *The Fat of the Land* Prodigy (XL Recordings)
- (2) *White on Blonde* Texas (Mercury)
- (3) *OK Computer* Radiohead (Parlophone)
- (4) *Sheryl Crow* Sheryl Crow (A&M)
- (5) *Spice* Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (6) *Do It Yourself* Seahorses (Geffen)
- (7) *Best of* Michael Jackson & Jackson 5 (Polygram TV)
- (8) *Essential* David Gates & Bread (Warner ESP/Julie)
- (9) *No Way Out* Puff Daddy & the Family (Puff Daddy)
- (10) *Heavy Soul* Paul Weller (Island)

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Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

the seahorses
do it yourself

debut album available now
features the hit singles *blinded by the sun* and *love is the law*

Definitely maybe

POP GIG

Hurricane #1
LA2, WC1

Gallagher exchanged verbal blows in a Soho club last month.

At LA2, Lowe took the stage as he might have once entered the boxing ring, clapping his hands and smiling the smile of the completely self-assured, before strapping on his guitar and wrapping his gravelly throat around *Keep Walking*. But it was during *Step Into My World*, three songs into the set, that Lowe really hit his stride.

It really is impossible not to compare Hurricane #1 with Oasis, since they have been so heavily influenced by the latter's songs, sound and attitude. That said, Lowe has an indisputable charisma of his own and there are also many directions in which the band could move from here.

Bell is definitely more a Townshend-style guitar hero than the shoe-gazer of old, as was apparent during the dirty groove of *Just Another Illusion*, while the influence of bassist Will Pepper's former band, The Hypnotics, could be heard in the lumbering love song, *Lucky Man*.

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THE TIMES CHALLENGE OF THE MIND

£500 MASTERMIND PROBLEM by David Pritchard

Today's puzzle is based on the popular game of Mastermind. In the diagram five colours have been coded in a certain sequence, left to right. Five attempts to break the code are marked on the diagram. An "X" indicates a correct colour in the correct position, and an "O" indicates a correct colour but in the wrong position. Only the eight colours named are available, but the code may contain repeated colours. For example, if one attempt was YELLOW, BLUE, BLUE, BROWN, RED and the code was WHITE, BROWN, BLUE, GREEN and YELLOW, the attempt would be marked "XOO", the "X" indicating the second BLUE in the attempt

YELLOW	GREEN	BLUE	BROWN	RED	XO
WHITE	BLUE	WHITE	ORANGE	GREEN	OO
BLACK	RED	BROWN	RED	YELLOW	XOO
BLUE	ORANGE	YELLOW	BLACK	ORANGE	OO
ORANGE	WHITE	RED	BLUE	GREEN	OO

and BLUE in the attempt and the two "Os" the YELLOW and the BROWN - two colours in the code but in different positions to those in the attempt. Notice that the first BLUE in the attempt does not get a marker because there is only one BLUE in the code. Now you have enough

information to break the code.
Call 0891 102 724 (ex UK 44 990 200 618) before midnight tonight with your answer. The winner will get £500 and three runners-up will receive a £50 voucher, donated by Hamleys, for use in its Regent Street or Covent

Garden, London, stores. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received and the answer will be published on Tuesday.
Normal competition rules apply.

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TEN MINUTE MENSA PROBLEM
Q1. What three CUBED numbers when added equal 9 cubed?
Q2. If it is 26 miles to London and 23 miles to Rome, how many miles is it to Moscow?
Q3. What connects the words below? BAYONET, DISEASE, RECOVER, SURFACE

There's £100 to be won today with this ten-minute Mensa teaser. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Call 0891 102 725 (ex UK +44 990 200 619). 0891 calls cost 50p per minute.

All readers who get two or three of today's Mensa puzzles correct will receive a certificate and a Mensa information pack which includes a home IQ assessment test.

*David Pritchard is a former editor of *Games and Puzzles* magazine and the author of books on Chess, Go, Backgammon and bridge.



DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY) SOLUTIONS.

BACKGAMMON: The correct answer was 6-10 winning rolls. These are 6-6, 5-5, 4-4, 3-3, 2-2, 6-5, 5-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 2-6, 5-4, 4-5, 3-5, 5-3, 2-5, 5-2. If you wonder why 6-5 and 5-6 are separate rolls, imagine one die is red and the other green. Clearly, 6 on the red die and 5 on the green die is different to 5 on the red die and 6 on the green die. These are two separate possible rolls out of the 36 total possible rolls. In our problem, as Black has 19 winning rolls and only 17 losing rolls, he should double the stakes. However, his opponent should still accept the cube on 2, rather than give up one point by passing.
Peter Godfrey of Dollywood, Minnesota, wins £100. MENSA PROBLEM: 150 - sum of windows minus door. 2a - 194 is three times the previous number - 117; 2b - CORRECTION - the question should have read: 4, 8, 48, 227 (four digit number) to give the answer of 2,208 (ie 4-2a). We apologise for the mistake. 3 664 - being the difference in alphabetical positions of letters. The £100 winner, selected at random from the highest number of correct entries, was M Wheatley of Wareham, Dorset.

See the 16-page Mind Sports Olympiad supplement free with Monday's paper.

TOMORROW: PLAY LINES OF ACTION FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN MORE PRIZES.

Joan Clanchy argues that the annual results ritual is the wrong way to match candidates with universities

A-level race handicaps students

Next Tuesday is the "Glorious Twelfth", when grouse are slaughtered and on Thursday we have the ritual of A-level results.

Action will start early in the morning (or even Wednesday evening) with every news bulletin leading with the item that today 250,000 students receive their results. Some bulletins give the misleading information that these results are arriving "through the letter box" at home. This is the efficient and civilised practice in Scotland, where there is only one examination board, but in England schools act as clearing houses. Around 8am footage will be shown

'A review must ensure the auction of promises is dropped'

The news bulletins will also announce that the overall results in the country are up on last year by a fraction of a percentage point. This will be interpreted as demonstrating that standards have gone down. Or perhaps the results will have gone down a fraction, which will show conclusively that standards have gone down.

It may be that Sir Rhodes Boyson will no longer be wheeled out for a soundbite, but perhaps Chris Woodhead will make a judiciously arch comment from the top of the Matterhorn. The Secretary of State is on holiday so a junior Minister will issue a standard "Jolly Good".

These routines are savage for the waiting candidates. If they get good grades, they believe they have already been rubbish; if their grades are poor then they are in outer darkness.

In our school we keep the candidates (and their parents) out of the building until noon. The three large envelopes from the three different boards arrive in the post at 8.30am. They contain computer print-outs of results, which are then separated for the candidates' own envelopes. We then have time to pick up on any horrors before we hand them over: one year

a candidate whose name began with Z had been omitted from the lists of two subjects but we got her results fixed through by 11am and she didn't feel a thing.

We also have about an hour to work out some strategies for casualties. University entrance is currently run on a kind of auction of promises: a year in advance of the results — which is half-way through the A-level course — the school predicts what grade a candidate might achieve. The university assesses the candidate on those predictions and makes an offer conditional on a named set of results being achieved.

On Thursday, August 14, the truth is out. Amanda had to get A, B, B; she got A, A, C. Will this do? Each year the requirements are ratcheted up and the ropes tighten.

At noon the doors open; by 12.30pm the hall has gone quiet and only the disappointed ones remain. Advice is difficult to give and varies for each case. For near misses there is often hope: one advises sitting on a telephone to

some university until getting an answer, but that is not good advice for, say, Oxford and Cambridge colleges, who do not want calls while they are battling with their own tight numbers game.

The hardest part for the disappointed is that this can be a long game: much can change in the next few weeks. Places become available; the tariff can change. The student's view can also change. I have witnessed the depth of despair on the Thursday, when it became clear that she cannot be a doctor, change to a sense of liberation on the Monday when the welcome from another university's science department showed a whole new life ahead.

The system is acknowledged by all sides to be unsatisfactory and to be getting worse under pressure. Like many teachers I do not consider that A level has gone soft but I am certain that preparation of candidates has become more



When the waiting is over, the joy or despair of A-level results is followed by a scramble for places

pressured. If final school examinations are to be more discriminating, as the most exclusive universities want, then there needs to be a root and branch review — which the Dearing review of 1996 was not allowed to make. A new review is now authorised and it must ensure that the current "auction of promises" be dropped as part of university admissions. The new system must ensure that candidates have their qualification before they apply to universities.

This year will have an added panic factor as students might feel they should accept any offer for 1997 rather than wait till 1998, when fees will be operating. But even without that complication, the annual August A-level hysteria is unhelpful. It makes news in a slow season but it does not provide a calm, considerate context for young people trying to make life decisions.

Joan Clanchy retires this summer as Headmistress of North London Collegiate School.

NEXT WEEK

Full listings of the degree course vacancies available in Clearing will appear in The Times next Thursday

Delicate dance of the red pens

Great pains are taken to ensure marking is accurate and fair, says a spouse who witnesses each summer's blizzard of scripts

I lost my wife again recently. It was not that I had mislaid her, nor that we had parted ways; it was just that she was marking. Once more I awoke each day alone: she had slipped out at half past five to work her painstaking way through a few more papers before breakfast.

In this time of deafening silence between taking exams and receiving the results, few GCSE candidates (or their anxious parents) will have much idea of what is going on. From where I sit, marking is a deeply impressive operation. Of course, I am only an outsider, a mere spouse who is permitted to knock on the door to ensure that any naked scripts are decently covered — to bring in the occasional cup of coffee.

If candidates give any thought at all to the process, they probably imagine a few ogres with red pens, gathered in some ivory tower, casually dispensing instant grades. My limited view — admittedly of only one marker on one paper of one subject for one examining board — suggests that there is nothing casual about it at all.

First, a little arithmetic soon shows that there must be more than a few ogres, for hundreds of thousands of candidates have been writing millions of GCSE scripts this summer. These are marked by thousands of teachers, former teachers and sundry academics, mostly in their own homes, far, far away from the schools and colleges whose pupils they mark. As a result, the Post Office is now shuffling hundreds of tons of paper around Britain.

As for the marking itself, there is more to it than ticks and crosses for right and wrong answers, even — perhaps particularly — on a science paper. There are limits of accuracy to be tested, and tolerances on graphs to be measured. Unfamiliar methods may prove to be the hapless floundering of the lost, cunningly disguised reworkings of standard routines or original works of genius; none can be dismissed out of hand.

Forget the red pens — at least at the start. Each marker has to mark at least ten scripts in pencil before a day-long gathering to iron out the finer details of the marking

scheme, the idea being that if dozens of markers have each marked ten scripts they will have seen most of the bizarre, creative and otherwise borderline answers between them. They will also have detected any ambiguities in the paper, and be in a position to argue the candidates' case with the chief examiner. At the end of the meeting, each marker has to mark another batch of scripts, including copies of some specially selected awkward ones. Only when these have been approved by their team leaders do the markers win their red pens. When the real marking is under way, a further batch must be submitted to be checked for accuracy and consistency.

Nor do the markers dispense grades. They do not even know what the pass marks are for the grades. They mark in blissful ignorance of the consequences, strictly on the evidence before them and the marking scheme agreed. Scripts which later turn out to be borderline cases will be completely re-marked by someone else for a second opinion.

And ogres? Not the marker I see. Bound by strict rules of confidentiality, she says little in general (apart from, "I'd better go and do some more marking") and nothing in particular (beyond, "Could you turn the sound down, please?"; but I know that she takes great pains to be both accurate and fair. Moreover, as a natural tutor, she cannot help but ask, "Why did he write that?"; perhaps "grieving" is not too strong a word for what she goes through with some scripts.

Our three-week blitz is now over, and the household is slowly returning to normal. Like a storm cloud, the scripts have passed on, to be sampled and checked this way and that, and the marks to be moderated and graded, and eventually the results will be sent out. And then, when all the dust has settled, the markers will receive marks for their performance. Now, who marks the markers?

ADRIAN RUSSELL

The writer is married to Rosemary Russell, author of *Maths for Parents*; they are joint authors of *IT for Parents*. Both books are published by Piccadilly Press.

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The boys took turns to lead, and were allowed as much freedom as possible to make their own decisions — and mistakes

David Charter reports on a challenge that took 12 students to new heights

Teamwork comes naturally in Ecuador

At the airport, when Glenn could not find his passport, the idea of a mountain-climbing expedition to Ecuador masterminded by a dozen 16-year-olds from Reading began to seem a trifle ambitious.

Every boy in the Forest Comprehensive School party would take it in turns to lead the group for a day once we reached South America. They had already successfully completed the first stage of their World Challenge Expedition by raising £2,300 each for the four-week trip. Martin worked as a chef, Chris was a maths tutor and Russell delivered pizzas.

Mercifully, after a good rummage through his belongings on the check-in hall floor, Glenn found his passport stuffed with his emergency medical kit.

World Challenge Expeditions Ltd provided a guide, in our case former soldier Steve, whose role was to ensure the boys built their leadership and team-working skills by jungle trekking, mountain climbing and working on a conservation project. They were to be allowed as much freedom as possible to make their own decisions — and mistakes — along the way. The two teachers on the trip, Colin Jones and Alastair Newton, were there to provide extra advice but not too much guidance or control.

Arrival at night in Quito, the Ecuadorian capital, presented the group's first test. They had to convert some currency and find transport to the hostel. One confusing hour later we were at the wrong guest house. This was supposed to be for the other Forest School group, but no one knew where they were. In the middle, one of the taxi drivers sped off with some of the luggage in his boot — including Steve's passport.

Our guide proved more than equal to his own challenge and found the taxi driver the next day at the airport. Now it was the boys' turn. Their mission: to plan and provision an acclimatisation hike in the Pascocha reserve near Quito, climbing to 13,000ft and back in three days.

At this stage, Steve and the teachers did most of the planning. It was left to the boys to scour Quito for maps, food, fuel and local travel advice. This went smoothly, although extra maps and provisions had to be sent out for. And

preparing sandwiches presented a few problems. Russell fiddled with the can-opener before admitting defeat. "We've got an electric thing at home. I can't use this Flintstones stuff."

I had some problems of my own. On the morning of the ascent, having reached the reserve and camped the night, everyone was asked if they left OK. We were already at 11,000ft above sea level. I managed to get five paces from the group before nausea overcame me. Altitude sickness kept me in my tent that day.

When the group returned from their first foray up the mountain, there was still little sign of teamwork. The boys came from different factions at school, and co-operation did not come easily. There were complaints about not sharing water, or sunscreen, and a suspicion that some were not pulling their weight.

The plan for the next day was to rise at dawn, hike to the top of Pascocha peak, return by mid-morning and head back to Quito.

In the night, Mr Newton developed urgent diarrhoea. But that was not the only interruption. "Who's that?" shouted Steve at 3am. "Get off with you!" A large cow was helping itself to the food left out for breakfast. Six of her friends were tripping over our guy-ropes. Forest School was surrounded. The clumsy cattle barged around between the tents and could not be shoofed for fear of trampling them. At one stage, two teachers and a journalist huddled together under their caravans, bracing themselves for the intrusion of any one of the 12 hooves which hemmed them in.

Eventually a line was formed to coax the cows away. At the first attempt, two beasts were funnelled out of the top gate but five fled down the hill. John forgot to shut the gate and the two came back. Gradually the others reappeared, and the boys' line re-formed, manoeuvring to herd the cows up the slope.

Martin waved his jacket, Glenn flushed out a straggler, Russell ran here and there keeping the line steady. As the cows departed, John shut the gate. Teamwork, at last.

World Challenge Expeditions Ltd can be contacted on 0787-161-1122.

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SAILING: COLLISION AT START MEANS BRITAIN SLIP TO SIXTH OVERALL BEFORE DECISIVE FASTNET RACE

Law left behind by opening blunder

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IT MAY take Chris Law a few weeks to forget the name of a little motor boat called *Private Venture*. Yesterday, he must have cursed its very existence when, as he was crossing the start line on *Corum Indulgence* in race eight in the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup at Cowes, he managed to foul *Indulgence's* keel on her anchor line.

The incident happened as *Indulgence* came up to the line on port tack right up against *Private Venture*, which was acting as the outer distance mark on the Royal Yacht Squadron line. Pushed down by boats on starboard above him, Law got too close and, as the fleet speed away, *Indulgence* just hovered on the line, with Law fretting at the wheel spinning in his hands.

It was painful to watch, especially on a day of light airs and flat water, which would have suited Graham Walker's *Corel 45*, which has been so successful recently. The second seemed to take hours as the *Indulgence* crew backed the mainsail and swung the boat round against the tide, crunching on *Private Venture's* side, before eventually she was freed. By the time she had re-started and taken her penalties, Law was a full 4min 40sec behind the field.

In light and dying airs, late starters can often catch up, but in this race, it was a case of the poor getting poorer while the rich got richer. By the third mark of the course, *Indulgence* was 11 minutes behind the leader, *Madina Milano*, of Italy, and a last place was inevitable from then on.

It was a cruel blow to the British team, which has come to rely on *Indulgence* to pull rabbits out of the hat to help

offset poorer performances by the ILC 40, *Easy Oars*.

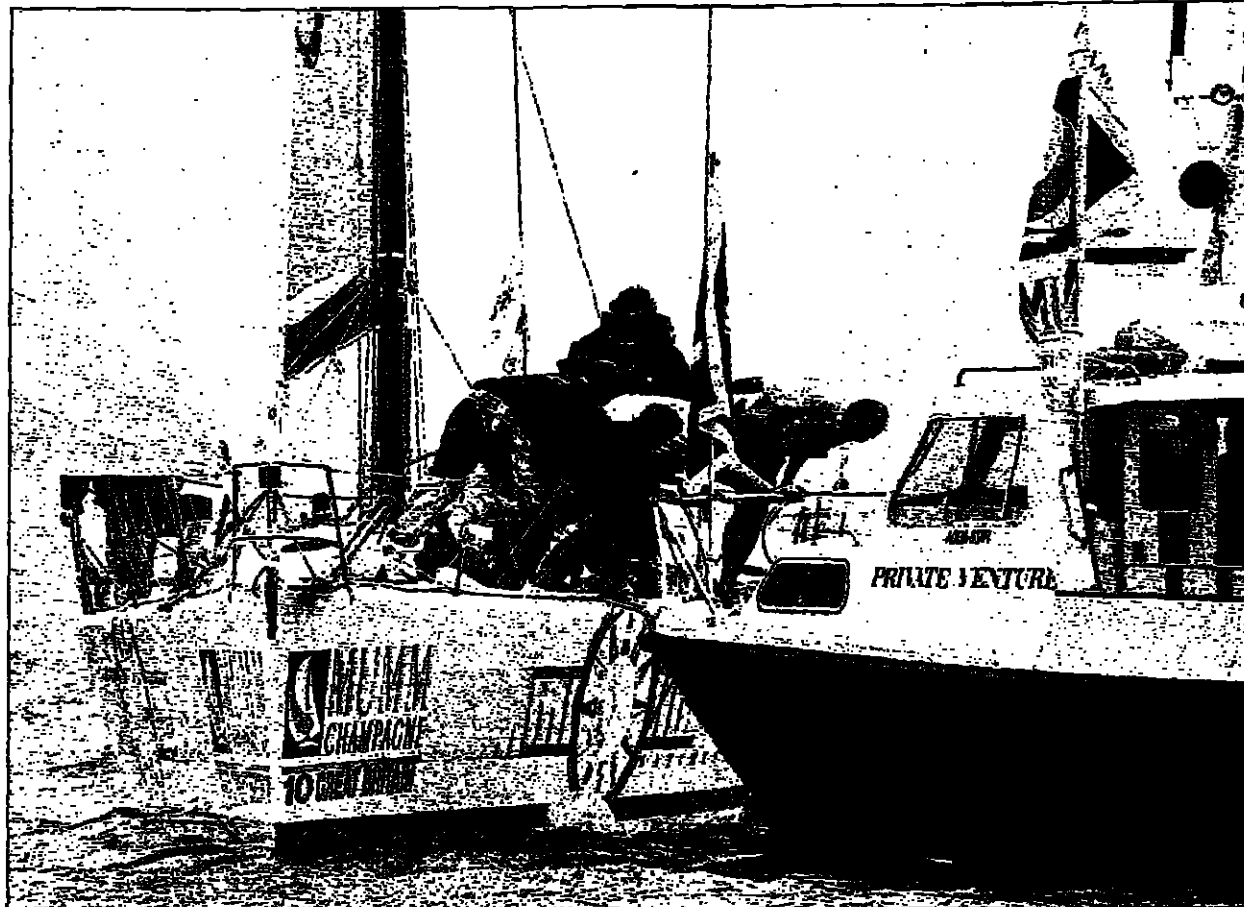
Yesterday, in fact, the *Oars*, skippered by Andy Beadsworth, had a good race, as the fleet zig-zagged its way around the eastern Solent on a course cut from 80 miles to 37. She was never out of the top four in her class and finished fourth. Meanwhile, the Mumm 36 *Bradamante* led early on, but slipped to fourth by the finish. Despite those efforts, however, the British team has now slipped to sixth place overall, 33.5 points behind the leaders, the United States.

The Italians had the best of it yesterday with another win for Dario Ferrari's *Madina Milano* and an immaculate performance by the ILC 40 *Brava Q8*, skippered by Paolo Gaia, which stormed away from the startline and finished among the big-boat fleet. The Italians have moved up from fifth to fourth overall, with the Germans third and the New Zealanders second.

Although Britain would prefer to be placed higher in the rankings, all is by no means lost with the Fastnet Race, which starts tomorrow, worth more points than any other in the series. A win is certainly looking remote, but a top-three finish is still a possibility and fourth place is well within Britain's reach.

As John Kollus, the American skipper of the ILC 40, *MC Cafe*, put it yesterday: "All the racing so far is simply to get in position for the Fastnet."

In Skandia Life Cowes Week yesterday, the New York Yacht Club Challenge Cup, which is raced for by Class and the Maxis together, was won by Kiwi Holiday's *Independent Bear* to follow her victory in the Britannia Cup on Wednesday.



The crew of *Indulgence* try to free themselves after colliding with *Private Venture*, the marker boat yesterday.

Knox-Johnston focuses on more records

By EDWARD GORMAN

SIR ROBIN KNOX-JOHNSTON is to mount a campaign to break more than 20 of the world's toughest sailing speed and endurance records, culminating in an entry in The Race in 2000 — a sprint round the world for the fastest boats.

In partnership with British Aerospace and the designer, Nigel Irens, Sir Robin is planning to construct the biggest catamaran ever built. It will be 120ft long, 72ft wide and capable of speeds in excess

of 40 knots. The boat will include the latest SMART technology, with fibre-optic sensors in the hull and rig to provide a constant flow of information on performance.

Announcing the project at Cowes yesterday, Sir Robin, 58, the first man to sail round the world non-stop, said his desire and ambition to race in the world's toughest oceans remains undimmed. After Olivier de Kersauson, of France, succeeded in breaking Sir Robin's own record for the fastest circumnavigation in

May this year, he decided that it was time to have another go himself.

Whereas Sir Robin and Sir Peter Blake got round in the old *ENZA New Zealand* in 74 days, the new catamaran might be capable of completing a circumnavigation in as little as 65 days.

Sir Robin is one of three potential British entries in The Race. Peter Goss is planning a similar sized catamaran and Tracy Edwards may build a new boat after her *Royal & Sun Alliance* campaign is finished.

GOLF

Fairclough sets slick pace with putter

By PATRICIA DAVIES

THE McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe started in a fog at Gleneagles yesterday before the weather brightened up and some sparkling play (albeit at a funeral pace) was produced to match the surroundings.

The start was delayed by two hours and the later starters were not expected to finish their rounds. Lora Fairclough, one of the early risers, was back to something approaching her best and set the target with a round of 66, six under par. The doughty Lancastrian, who just missed out on retaining her Solheim Cup place last year, has made it her aim not to three-putt on the slick greens of the King's Course this week. She holed more than her share in the 15 to 25-foot range as she picked up eight birdies, including three in the last five holes.

Fairclough's challengers included Wendy Dicks, who had an eagle three at the 463-yard 18th for a 67, and Trish Johnson and Catriona Mathew, who were both four under par after 13 holes. Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, No 1 on the American Express order of merit, was on 68, one ahead of Alison Nicholas. De Lorenzi had two eagles in her round, a three at the 439-yard 7th and a two at the 260-yard 14th, where she holed a putt of 30 feet. Johnson, renowned as a streak player, had two eagle threes and two birdies in an outward half of 32, five under par, a run matched by Mathew.

Janice Moodie, the Scot who has recently graduated from San Jose State University in California, is playing her last event as an amateur and started in fine style, with a 69 — a vast improvement on last year, when she was disqualified. The five-hour round did not bother Moodie at all. "It took us six hours to get round in college many a time," she said.

Tina Fischer, the German who was the defending champion, gave up the unequal struggle against a shoulder injury and withdrew tearfully, acknowledging that it was likely she would be out of action for the rest of the year.

EARLY SCORES (GB and Ireland shaded; 68 = 10 under par): 1st, Lora Fairclough (67); 2nd, Wendy Dicks (67); 3rd, Marie-Laure de Lorenzi (68); 4th, Alison Nicholas (68); 5th, Catriona Mathew (68); 6th, Trish Johnson (68); 7th, Lora Fairclough (68); 8th, Wendy Dicks (68); 9th, Alison Nicholas (68); 10th, Catriona Mathew (68); 11th, Trish Johnson (68); 12th, Lora Fairclough (68); 13th, Wendy Dicks (68); 14th, Alison Nicholas (68); 15th, Catriona Mathew (68); 16th, Trish Johnson (68); 17th, Lora Fairclough (68); 18th, Wendy Dicks (68); 19th, Alison Nicholas (68); 20th, Catriona Mathew (68); 21st, Trish Johnson (68); 22nd, Lora Fairclough (68); 23rd, Wendy Dicks (68); 24th, Alison Nicholas (68); 25th, Catriona Mathew (68); 26th, Trish Johnson (68); 27th, Lora Fairclough (68); 28th, Wendy Dicks (68); 29th, Alison Nicholas (68); 30th, Catriona Mathew (68); 31st, Trish Johnson (68); 32nd, Lora Fairclough (68); 33rd, Wendy Dicks (68); 34th, Alison Nicholas (68); 35th, Catriona Mathew (68); 36th, Trish Johnson (68); 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CRICKET: DASHING CONTRIBUTION OF FLEMING PROVIDES PERFECT ENTERTAINMENT FOR LADIES' DAY

McCague piles on the misery for Essex

BY SIMON WILDE

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Essex, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 445 runs behind Kent

ESSEX have had a miserable seven days in the championship. Kept in the field for almost seven sessions at Colchester, they were into their sixth at the St Lawrence Ground before Kent declared at 525 for nine. By then, the home side's appetite for runs was sated, the visitors thoroughly footsore and demoralised, and McCague raring to go.

Taken together, that added up to 23

hours and 352 overs of hard labour, and 1,040 runs on the board; not even India endured that in Colombo. It is certainly not the recipe for winning the title, which Essex are theoretically aiming to do.

The consequence was all too predictable. With an awkward 90 minutes to face, Essex were quickly on the slide. McCague beat Prichard for pace in his second over. Eatham had Hodgson — who is making his championship debut — pounced by Ward at second slip, before McCague claimed the great prize: Stuart Law, carving wildly, held high at first slip by Wells, a gem of a catch.

Essex were then panicking. Irani swished and heaved in extraordinary fashion and was dropped twice; Robinson was leg-before to a ball that kept low; and Williams, the nightwatchman, caught on the boundary hooking.

Essex closed on 80 for five. McCague's figures of four for 55 from 12 overs failing to do justice to his sustained hostility.

Whatever Essex made of it, batting was considerably easier yesterday than the previous day; though not until after lunch, when Kent made hay in hot and humid conditions in which bowling became a thankless

task. But, to get to that stage, Kent had to negotiate the morning session, which they did for the loss of Wells, who added only seven to his overnight 102 before edging Irani to slip.

That they got through so well was due to Eatham and Fleming, who rose nobly above his reputation as a slogger and a season's average of 16. Once Fleming had settled — he offered a hard chance to third man before he was into double figures — this pair offered broads bats and waited for better times. These came in an afternoon which rapidly turned into murder near the cathedral.

They added 138 together, after

which Fleming shared rumbustious stands of 75 with Marsh and 92 in ten overs with Strang. Fleming, formerly of Eton and the Royal Green Jackets, is just the man to provide the entertainment on Ladies' Day of festival week and this he did to perfection. By the time he had finished, he had struck 138 from 195 balls, the highest of his nine first-class centuries.

He passed his previous best of 116 with a smash for six over long on off. Such in an over that cost 23. It was one of six sixes Such conceded; his record-breaking stint at Castle Park appears to have taken its toll.

Belligerent Byas stands alone in the face of hostility

BY ALASTAIR STORIE

HEADINGLEY (first day of four): Yorkshire won toss; Pakistan A, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 162 runs behind Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE, extracted from the current round of county championship matches, took this opportunity to assess the form of recovering and aspirant players. Having won their previous two championship matches, but searching for top-order solidity, David Byas, the captain, would have learnt little from Yorkshire's 243 all out on a used, uneven wicket.

The early departure of the two openers foreshadowed a difficult day for batsmen. Vaughan was undone by reduced bounce in Shoaib's second over and Moxon suffered the opposite extreme to be caught behind off Razzak. Byas looked more attuned to the requirement than his colleagues and had pre-planned severity on anything wide or short.

Shoaib, with a lengthy Waqar-like approach, bowled with real hostility if not swinging, eliciting a comment from Byas later that it was as quick a spell as he had faced all season.

However, after lunch it was a vicious lifter from Azhar that accounted for Byas, who struck a commanding 84 from 125 balls. Azhar was into his stride, taking five for 48 in a 13-over spell.

McGrath offered no shot to a ball that ripped back and Chapman received a shooter. Morris played elegantly for his 37, but failed to refocus after tea when Yorkshire sought more resilience. Rizvi, who bowled his leg breaks with great control through 26 overs, spun one back through the left-hander's tentative stroke on his way to creditable figures of two for 44.

Yorkshire's young attack extracted less variation in bounce than their counterparts and Silverwood was wide of an effective off-sump line. The introduction of Hutchinson produced a decisive breakthrough, the tall left-arm, trapping the Test player, Elahi, and then Raza on the crease with late swingers to leave honours all but even.

Derbyshire yesterday quashed a £1,500 fine imposed on Kim Barnett for comments he made after the sudden departure of Dean Jones, his successor as captain, earlier this summer. The club said that the chairman, Mike Horton, would be abroad for the foreseeable future and it would therefore be impossible for Barnett's legal adviser to question him as part of his appeal.

Weston in no hurry for first double century

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 343 runs behind Worcestershire

CHARACTER tests are rarely more rigorous than that Russell Warren and Alan Fordham, the Northamptonshire second wicket pair, met head on. Needing 402 to avoid following on after four gruelling sessions in the field, the batsmen adopted a bold approach.

Warren and Fordham shared a partnership of 119 in 35 overs on a benign pitch that had earlier yielded a first career double hundred for Phillip Weston, who struck 30 fours and three sixes from 386 balls.

Northamptonshire could still have been forgiven for believing that the pitch had developed unsavoury tendencies overnight, such was Weston's agonising 50-minute struggle to steal the four runs he required to reach 200. Soon afterwards, he top-edged a weary pull to mid-on, leaving Steve Rhodes to guide Worcestershire's total to invincible proportions.

Vikram Solanki had also played a leading role, injecting urgency while Weston looked out of touch, having made such an impressive first-day score.

Scott Boswell, 22, a Yorkshireman showing brisk right-arm, returned a career-best five for 94, contrasting with his six previous first-class wickets this summer at 77 runs each.

Boswell added the wickets of Solanki, caught at mid-off, Rhodes and Phillip Newport to his first-day dismissals, but was unsuccessful in his new role as nightwatchman, being caught for a second ball duck at second slip off David Leatherdale.

His duties had been enforced by the worthy Fordham being admirably caught hooking by Gavin Haynes. Fordham had made his third championship half-century in five innings this season.

David Roberts had shared an opening partnership of 79 with Warren before mistiming a pull and being caught at short mid-wicket by the diving Ruben Spiring. It emphasised that the hook and pull, the most productive strokes in the match so far, also had perilous consequences.

Warren, with a half-century for 130 balls, advanced studiously to 85 not out, his highest score this summer, and, along with Rob Bailey, holds the destiny of the innings — and probably the game.

Ramprakash sets blistering pace

BY BARNEY SPENDER

LORD'S (second day of four): Hampshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 373 runs behind Middlesex

TWO questions arise from yesterday's play at Lord's: why is there no provision in the county championship for play lost through the elements to be made up after hours if the weather permits and why cannot Mark Ramprakash reproduce his undoubted talent on the international stage?

They are equally baffling and deserve the full attention of Lord MacLaurin now that he has delivered his blueprint for cricket and has some hours to fill.

First things first. Yesterday, play was delayed for an hour because the heavy overnight rain had crept under the covers carefully laid down by

Mick Hunt, the groundsman. It is easy to point fingers, but these situations can occur despite taking the wisest precautions.

The argument lies in the fact that 16 overs were docked and play ended, in fine evening sunshine, when the day's quota was up. If it had been a Test match, however, play could have continued an extra hour and no overs would have been lost. The logic of having one rule for Test cricket and another for county cricket seems flawed, if only for the reason that the paying public at the latter is being short-changed.

The issue of Ramprakash also defies logic. In the last of his 19 Tests, against South Africa in "Atherton's Test" at the Wanderers, he looked as unsuited to international

cricket as Buster Keaton on stilts, bowled for a duck and then four by Donald and McMillan: a player out of sorts with his surroundings, his game and himself — and yet he continues to dominate in the championship, not just in the manner of salesman doing the rounds but with real panache.

One of his Middlesex colleagues made the point that England must have a mighty good top six for him not to be playing against Australia and one can only hope that he finally fulfils his promise in the West Indies this coming winter.

Yesterday, he continued where he left off on Wednesday. Resuming on 99, he pushed his second delivery to mid-off and scrambled through to complete his fifth first-class hundred of the summer. Thereafter, he played with grace and assurance and it was a big disappointment for all bar the Hampshire bowlers to see him go midway through the afternoon for 190 when he scooped Shaun Udell to short midwicket.

He hit 29 fours and a six and faced 333 balls and his departure was marked by the kind of ovation that had earlier greeted the return to the press box of Bill Kelly, the long-serving steward, whose absence through illness had been a source of concern on the first day.

Ramprakash shared a fine partnership of 185 with Owais Shah, a young man who will be chasing him hard for a spot in the England side in the next couple of years. Shah started by trying to hit the leather off the ball, but once he settled to the pace of the pitch, made a career-best 77 before also falling to Udell.

Middlesex tightened their grip in the evening by removing Jason Loney and Matthew Hayden, leaving Hampshire still 224 runs away from saving the follow-on.



Sidebottom, who took seven for 30, strains in delivery stride at Edgbaston yesterday

Sidebottom takes advantage

BY IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (first day of four): Zimbabwe Under-19 won toss; England Under-19, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 53 runs behind Zimbabwe Under-19

THERE is one England team that has no need of Ben Hollis. The Under-19s, as they are simply demonstrated during their two one-day victories and, indeed, yesterday, are simply too strong for their Zimbabwean counterparts.

On the first day of the proper cricket in these NatWest matches, Ryan Sidebottom, of Yorkshire, took seven for 30 and Stephen Peters, of Essex, scored 85 not out. Sidebottom's figures were

the best since England began playing representative cricket at this level in 1974.

He looks not a lot like his father, Arnie, who now runs the Yorkshire Academy, nor does he bowl like him. Left-arm, distinctly lively and with the ability to come up with a telling yorker, he was too much for Zimbabwe.

His figures surpassed Peter Such's seven for 72 in 1983 against an Australia Under-19 side that included Ian Healy. On a pitch giving some help to the quicker bowlers, Sidebottom made the occasional ball swing in, such as when he had Vermuelen off-stumps. He uprooted the leg-bumpers of both Ferreira and Erasmus,

had Malloch-Brown caught at gully off one that lifted sharply and had Delport brilliantly caught one-handed by Tudor. Vermuelen's half-century was the one innings of note, although Steyn and Engelbrecht managed 47 for the last wicket. One of the reasons why Sales and Shah have returned to their counties is that Zimbabwe have not proved to be sufficiently taxing opposition, highlighted when England, in reply, made 155 runs off 34 overs.

This was for the loss of one batsman, Key, who captained England Under-17 in Bermuda last month. He made 44 and Peters, his opening partner, a half-century off 73 balls.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tour match

Yorkshire v Pakistan A
HEADINGLEY (first day of four): Yorkshire won toss; Pakistan A, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 162 runs behind Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings
M Moxon c Javed b Abdul 6
J L Vaughan b Shoaib 1
D Byas c Javed b Azhar 84
S Pender c Mohammad b Ali Husain 8
J Latham b Azhar 13
J C Chapman b Azhar 27
A C Morris b Ali Husain 37
G Moxon c Mohammad b Azhar 13
D P Foster b Azhar 3
C E J Silverwood b Abdul 20
P R Harrison not out 29
Extras 11 to 6, 2 no 10 79
Total 243

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-38, 3-42, 4-59, 5-73
BOWLING: McCague 12-0-55-4, Strang 20-3-0-60, Eatham 6-1-7-1, Thompson 2-0-7-0
Extras: 11 to 6, 2 no 10

PAKISTAN A: First Innings
Ali Husain c Chapman b Silverwood 5
Salim Bhatti b Silverwood 13
G Moxon c Mohammad b Azhar 13
Hassan Raza b Silverwood 5
Mohammad Wasim not out 19
Extras 11 to 6, 2 no 10 79
Total 243

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-35, 3-45
BOWLING: Silverwood 12-0-55-4, Strang 20-3-0-60, Eatham 6-1-7-1, Thompson 2-0-7-0
Extras: 11 to 6, 2 no 10

PAKISTAN A: First Innings
Ali Husain c Chapman b Silverwood 5
Salim Bhatti b Silverwood 13
G Moxon c Mohammad b Azhar 13
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Mohammad Wasim not out 19
Extras 11 to 6, 2 no 10 79
Total 243

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-35, 3-45
BOWLING: Silverwood 12-0-55-4, Strang 20-3-0-60, Eatham 6-1-7-1, Thompson 2-0-7-0
Extras: 11 to 6, 2 no 10

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Extras 11 to 6, 2 no 10 79
Total 243

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BOWLING: Silverwood 12-0-55-4, Strang 20-3-0-60, Eatham 6-1-7-1, Thompson 2-0-7-0
Extras: 11 to 6, 2 no 10

PAKISTAN A: First Innings
Ali Husain c Chapman b Silverwood 5
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G Moxon c Mohammad b Azhar 13
Hassan Raza b Silverwood 5
Mohammad Wasim not out 19
Extras 11 to 6, 2 no 10 79
Total 243

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-35, 3-45
BOWLING: Silverwood 12-0-55-4, Strang 20-3-0-60, Eatham 6-1-7-1, Thompson 2-0-7-0
Extras: 11 to 6, 2 no 10

GLoucestershire v Warwickshire
BLACKPOOL (second day of four): Gloucestershire won toss; Warwickshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 18 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

GLoucestershire: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

Surrey v Durham
THE OVAL (second day of four): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 230 runs behind Surrey

SURREY: First Innings
D J Blunkett c Spaight b Batta 33
M A Butcher b Foster 24
J D Ratcliffe c Boon b Foster 76
J Ward b Wood 36
A D Brown c Boon b Wood 7
C C Lewis c Boon b Belling 24
M P Bicknell b Wood 5
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 330

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-47, 3-215, 4-224, 5-235, 6-253, 7-253, 8-253, 9-253
BOWLING: Blunkett 12-0-55-4, Strang 20-3-0-60, Eatham 6-1-7-1, Thompson 2-0-7-0
Extras: 11 to 6, 2 no 10

DURHAM: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

DURHAM: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

DURHAM: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

DURHAM: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

DURHAM: First Innings
J S Lacey c Popley b Hewitt 23
M L Wynne not out 38
S J Rennie not out 0
Extras 10 to 2, 2 no 10 119
Total 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-21, 3-105, 4-105
BOWLING: Fraser 1-12-0-2, Hewitt 6-2-27-1, Johnson 3-0-0-0, Kallis 8-2-11-0, Doherty 4-0-0-0

NatWest under-19
England v Zimbabwe

EDGBASTON (first day of four): Zimbabwe won toss; England, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 53 runs behind Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE: First Innings
N Farnes b Sidebottom 5
L S Malloch-Brown c Coaker 2
D M Vermeulen b Sidebottom 50
D M Vermeulen b Sidebottom 50
D M Vermeulen b Sidebottom 50
D M Vermeulen b Sidebottom 50
D M Vermeulen b Sidebottom 50
Extras 11 to 6, 2 no 10 79
Total 243

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-30, 3-77, 4-117, 5-137, 6-154, 7-160, 8-160, 9-160
BOWLING: Sidebottom 12-0-55-4, Strang 20-3-0-60, Eatham 6-1-7-1, Thompson 2-0-7-0
Extras: 11 to 6, 2 no 10

ENGLAND: First Innings
S D Pender c Javed b Abdul 6
J L Vaughan b Shoaib 1
D Byas c Javed b Azhar 84
S Pender c Mohammad b Ali Husain 8
J Latham b Azhar 13
J C Chapman b Azhar 27
A C Morris b Ali Husain 37
G Moxon c Mohammad b Azhar 13
D P Foster b Azhar 3
C E J Silverwood b Abdul 20
P R Harrison not out 29
Extras 11 to 6, 2 no 10 79
Total 243

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-35, 3-45
BOWLING: Silverwood 12-0-55-4, Strang 20-3-0-60, Eatham 6-1-7-1, Thompson 2-0-7-0
Extras: 11 to 6, 2 no 10

ENGLAND: First Innings
S D Pender c Javed b Abdul 6
J L Vaughan b Shoaib 1
D Byas c Javed b Azhar 84
S Pender c Mohammad b Ali Husain 8
J Latham b Azhar 13
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Total 243

FREE Match of

CRICKET

Lancashire dig deep and shine at seaside

By Richard Hobson

BLACKPOOL (second day of four): **Warwickshire**, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 18 runs ahead of Lancashire.

BARRING heavy rain, Lancashire will record their fourth win in five championship fixtures today. In beautiful sunshine they have dominated this seaside encounter and only spirited resistance from the Warwickshire lower order denied them an innings victory inside two days.

The visitors had much ground to retrieve after their failings of the first day, and, if the early signs offered encouragement, then hope quickly dissipated. Lloyd had added just five runs to his overnight 70 when he offered a shoulder-height catch to Ollie at second slip and, five overs later, Harveys' attempt to drive Donald found Wag in the same position.

The depth of Lancashire's batting is the envy of most counties. The last five wickets realised 157 to take them to 362, and on a pitch of increasingly unpleasant bounce, a first-innings lead of 223 checked any notion of a Warwickshire recovery.

Ian Austin, for the second day, proved a considerable thorn. What a useful customer he has become. His 68, with ten fours, was his sixth century this summer and the quality of his cover driving was worthy of a No.3.

He outscored Watkinson, the captain, during a sixth-wicket stand of 69 in 16 overs, and then added 77 for the eighth wicket with Yates. Warwickshire strayed off line too often and received the appropriate punishment.

Welch could, at least take comfort from career-best figures of six for 115, including the last five wickets. He now has 49 wickets for the season, one more than Brown. There

is obviously an element of healthy competition between two unsung players who have also provided the highest two scores in each Warwickshire innings.

Watkinson offered the thinnest of edges to Prosser, the wicketkeeper, and Hegg saw his counterpart drive alertly to his right in holding a trickier chance. Austin eventually perished to the same combination and departed to huge applause.

Yates has three first-class hundreds to his credit, but comes in at No.9. He had moved to 32, an innings full of adventure, when his attempted drive ballooned to Penney at backward point. Smith held a firm on-drive by Martin two overs later.

Warwickshire are clearly missing Knight and Moles, their regular openers. Only Wag can explain his decision to leave a delivery from Austin which struck his off stump.

Ostler occupied the crease for 17 nervous overs, while Harveys took his strokes with more confidence. They had extended the total to 54 when Shadford, a raw but brisk 22-year-old from Oldham, took three wickets for as many runs in the space of ten deliveries to leave Warwickshire floundering again.

If he remains in the game for 15 years Shadford will not produce a better delivery than the fast yorker that uprooted Ostler's middle stump. Singh was bowled in his next over and Hemp steered a wider delivery into the slips where Gallian held the ball at what appeared to be the fourth attempt.

Smith and Penney consolidated, before falling to Austin and Martin respectively. Brown, after scoring 30 in an earlier half-innings, fell with his side still 44 behind, and Shadford returned to bowl Welch.

Clamour boys rudely awakened

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Trent Bridge

The greater the expectation, the more profound the disappointment. That follows, as must night day. Of the 13,500 people who went to Trent Bridge yesterday, it is a fair guess that 13,000 had never seen the Holliaoke brothers in the flesh, so they may have been surprised to discover that, while the appointed saviours of English cricket have crept inside the velvet rope, they remain stubbornly mortal.

A first day score of 302 for three put all the blather that preceded and followed their selection into some sort of proportion. So persistent was the pre-Test ovation for two players who have yet to translate promise into achievement that some spectators may have thought that they were about to witness cricket's own Trooping of the Colour. No wonder the crowd was half asleep by mid-afternoon (a good thing, too, after the riotous assemblies elsewhere this summer).

So, no dream debut, no magic balls, no wonders performed for the benefit of their father, John, who flew into London from Perth yesterday morning in time to see them take the field. He had watched his sons play in the Tresco Trophy internationals in May and had not expected to see them recruited in England's cause quite so quickly.

What he and the rest of the crowd saw instead was confirmation that, on a pitch as benign as this, few bowlers in the world will contain these Australians. Even if the brothers had, however, Robert Croft's newly-revised Bardic robes and supped deep of Merlin's brew, they were nev-



Ben Holliaoke, left, and Adam look pensive during their first day as Test cricketers

er going to live up to the exaggerated claims made on their behalf.

To point this out is to become — as Mort Sahl, the American satirist, described the film director, Oliver Stone — "someone who describes accidents to witnesses".

Everybody knows the Holliaokes cannot raise the standard for English cricket on their own, but the "feel-good" impulse occasioned by this brave double selection suggested that we crossed our fingers as they leapt into the unknown and kept our true thoughts private.

Holliaoke major looked what he is, an ordinary bowler who must depend on his batting to make a mark. The young one, however, added a cabit or two to his reputation when he took Blewett's wicket in his third spell. The first one, all three overs of it, was poor, though.

Another debut sprang to mind as Blewett followed a wide ball to nick the catch. It was 20 years ago at Trent Bridge that somebody else first played a Test for England, an all-rounder whose

name should be kept out of all debate in case people start making false comparisons. That young man's first wicket was about the best any ambitious chap could wish for. G.S. Chappell, who edged the ball into his stumps. He went on to take 382 more, as well as make 5,200 runs in one of the greatest of all international careers. That's why comparisons are daft. Better by far to let Holliaoke minor find his own way.

There were two other people out there who made their Test debuts at Trent Bridge. Atherton and Malcolm played here eight years ago when Australia finished the opening day on 301 without loss. They were still batting on the third morning and may well be this time unless Taylor, who made his best Test score on that occasion — 219 — declares later today. Mark Waugh, who played beautifully last night, has been settled in for a big hundred and Steve is gathering steam. Oh dear.

Close, 18 on his debut and a remarkable 45 when he was brought back at Old Trafford in 1976 to face the rampant West Indies) came on first change against New Zealand, after Trevor Bailey and Les Jackson had taken the new ball. He got through 25 overs and dismissed Walter Wallace. Holliaoke may feel that Blewett is the better wicket to have.

He did not disgrace himself

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker's grand old horse leads the way

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN DUBLIN

BRITAIN confirmed themselves as favourites for today's Nations' Cup when John Whitaker, riding Virtual Village Grannusch, led a clean sweep in the 44-strong Kerrygold Classic, the main event at the Dublin Horse Show yesterday.

In a superb display of precision jumping, Robert Smith, on Tees Hanauer, and Di Lampard, on Abbervail Dream — two of the riders who have qualified for the British team for the European championships later this month — filled the second and third places. With Nick Skelton, on Showtime, finishing eighth — he had the fastest time in the 12-hour jump-off, but hit the last fence — Britain's odds were 6-4 on with the resident bookmakers by the end of the afternoon.

Grannusch, who goes fourth in the team today, is 19, but performs like a horse half his age. The winner of more than £600,000 during his career, Whitaker attributes his longevity to "keeping him happy and not overjumping him". When at home, the Hannoverian gelding goes out in the field every day.

Smith, who said he is "relieved and delighted" to have qualified for the European championships through the new system of team trials, took the early lead in the competition with a clear round in 33.9sec. Lampard, who, like Smith, will be making her debut in a senior championship team, jumped a fluent, stylish round on Robert Verburg's ten-year-old, Abbervail Dream — the horse on which she won the Queen Elizabeth II Cup three years ago — to finish just outside Smith's time in 34.19sec.

Whitaker, going ninth, had watched Skelton's last round in 32.5sec. "I knew that was the time I had to aim for to beat Robert," Grannusch, the winner of the Dublin Grand Prix in the same arena two years ago, sensed the urgency. Taking the most economical round of the six fences, he finished in 33.16sec — adding a further £4,000 to his brimming purse.

IN BRIEF

Lima ready to make the move to Bath

BATH are expected to complete the signing of Brian Lima, the Western Samoa rugby union wing, on a two-year contract, next week. Lima, 25, was a member of the Western Samoa World Cup squads in 1991 and 1995. He has been playing in New Zealand with Auckland, who yesterday confirmed that they hope to secure closer ties with Blackheath, the Allied Dunbar Premiership Two side, later this month, with a view to concluding a deal by October 1.

One transfer that has gone ahead is that of Danny Greewood, the Coventry and England lock forward, who has joined Saracens.

Record round

Golf: Scott Henderson equaled the Karlstein course record with a seven-under-par 64 to take an early one-stroke lead from Simon Hurley, his fellow Briton, in the Czech Open yesterday. Henderson, a 27-year-old Scot, opened with an eagle at the 1st, three-putted the 2nd and then followed up with six birdies.

Title chance

Boxing: Joe Calzaghe, the unbeaten Welsh super-middleweight, is to get his world title chance. He will meet Steve Collins, of Ireland, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champion. The bout has been ordered by the WBO and Frank Warren, who promotes both boxers, hopes to stage the contest in September.

Still afloat

Rowing: Isabel Walker and Frances Hahon yesterday ensured their place in the women's pairs final at the world junior championships in Belgium on Sunday by winning their heat, despite nearly capsizing at the halfway stage.

Rio bravo

Squash: England reached the quarter-finals of the world junior women's team championship in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, completing an undefeated run through their qualifying pool with a 3-0 win over Belgium.

CRICKET: SAQLAIN'S SPINNING WILES HELP TO REGAIN INITIATIVE FOR SURREY

Brave Durham's revival shortlived

By Rupert Cox

THE OVAL (second day of four): **Durham**, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 230 runs behind Surrey.

EITHER side of lunch yesterday at the Oval, as the Durham seamers, John Wood and Michael Foster, instigated a middle-order collapse that reaped six Surrey wickets for 51 runs, a Durham championship draw, or even victory — elusive until now in the capital — appeared a distinct possibility. In fact, Surrey have a 100 per cent record over the professional game's most recent arrivals and, in keeping with this record, Surrey fought

back strongly to regain the initiative.

On a sultry London morning, Surrey set off in much the same fashion as they had on Wednesday, as Jason Ratcliffe and Ian Ward consolidated with a stand of 146 in 43 overs, before Ratcliffe fell to an athletic catch at second slip, one of three catches to David Boon. Ward, becalmed after reaching a maiden first-class half-century, fell leg-before to Wood.

With only five wickets this season at over 60 runs apiece, Wood, collected another four to have Surrey, on a benign wicket, listing at 266 for eight. To emphasise the gentle nature of the wicket — despite 14

wickets falling yesterday — Joey Benjamin and Saqlain Mushaq bolstered Surrey's total with a stand of 61 in 11 overs, allowing their captain to declare and claim maximum batting points.

In reply, Durham made a serene start, in spite of the early loss of Stewart Hutton to Martin Bicknell, as Jonathan Lewis, in conjunction with John Morris, took them to tea at 54 for one. The prospect of the captains negotiating for a result on Saturday morning loomed large, when, soon after the interval, Benjamin discomfited both batsmen in consecutive overs — Morris adjudged leg-before, while Lewis was pounced at second

slip by his namesake, the Surrey captain.

Surrey were already using their debutant, Rupesh Anin, a slow left-arm, and he obtained some purchase from the wicket. Thus Saqlain was quickly installed at the Pavilion End to bowl into Simon Brown's footmarks and varying his pace and flight, the match fluctuated again. This time, the follow-on target of 201 emerged on Durham's horizon. Their collapse took on more profound proportions than figures of three for 13 to his lively unbeaten innings of 41, consigning the visitors to more horrors in the city of London.

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men

200 metres
Semi-finals
First four in each heat qualify to final

QUALIFIERS: Heat one: 1. C. de Smet (Bel) 20.55; 2. G. Garcia (Col) 20.58; 3. D. Paragiotopoulos (Gre) 20.43; 4. O. Thompson (Barb) 20.48. Heat two: 1. J. Brown (USA) 20.61; 2. J. Brown (USA) 20.62; 3. F. Fredericks (Nam) 20.63; 4. F. Fredericks (Nam) 20.64. Heat three: 1. J. Brown (USA) 20.65; 2. J. Brown (USA) 20.66; 3. F. Fredericks (Nam) 20.67; 4. F. Fredericks (Nam) 20.68. Heat four: 1. J. Brown (USA) 20.69; 2. J. Brown (USA) 20.70; 3. F. Fredericks (Nam) 20.71; 4. F. Fredericks (Nam) 20.72.

110 metres hurdles
Final
1. A. Johnson (USA) 12.93sec; 2. C. Jackson (USA) 13.01; 3. J. Brown (USA) 13.02; 4. J. Brown (USA) 13.03.

50 kilometres walk
Final
1. J. Kozmowski (Pol) 3hr 44min 46sec; 2. J. Kozmowski (Pol) 3hr 44min 47sec; 3. J. Kozmowski (Pol) 3hr 44min 48sec; 4. J. Kozmowski (Pol) 3hr 44min 49sec.

Shot
Final (revised positions)
1. J. Godea (USA) 21.44m; 2. O.S. Butler (Ger) 21.24; 3. C.J. Hunter (USA) 20.32; 4. V. Belong (UK) 20.26; 5. M. Hansen (Fin) 20.19; 6. C. Price (USA) 20.12; 7. M. Hansen (Fin) 20.05; 8. M. Hansen (Fin) 19.98; 9. P. Del Soglio (ITA) 19.77; 10. B. Lammich (ITA) 19.75; 11. S. Kozsa (Hun) 19.73; 12. S. Kozsa (Hun) 19.72.

Decathlon
Final positions
1. I. Dvorak (Cze) 8,837pts; 2. E. Garbarino (ITA) 8,720; 3. F. Bultmann (Ger) 8,652; 4. S. Fritz (USA) 8,643; 5. R. Garvey (USA) 8,445; 6. S. Fritz (USA) 8,445; 7. S. Fritz (USA) 8,445; 8. S. Fritz (USA) 8,445; 9. S. Fritz (USA) 8,445; 10. S. Fritz (USA) 8,445; 11. S. Fritz (USA) 8,445; 12. S. Fritz (USA) 8,445.

Women
200 metres
Semi-finals
First four in each heat qualify to final

QUALIFIERS: Heat one: 1. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 2. J. Patuschew (UK) 22.55; 3. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 4. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 5. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 6. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 7. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 8. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 9. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 10. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 11. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 12. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55.

Shot
Final
1. A. Kumburuss (Ger) 20.71m; 2. V. Smith (UK) 20.62; 3. S. Strip (Ger) 20.52; 4. V. Smith (UK) 20.43; 5. V. Smith (UK) 20.34; 6. V. Smith (UK) 20.25; 7. V. Smith (UK) 20.16; 8. V. Smith (UK) 20.07; 9. V. Smith (UK) 19.98; 10. V. Smith (UK) 19.89; 11. V. Smith (UK) 19.80; 12. V. Smith (UK) 19.71.

Discus
Final
1. F. Fautsch (GER) 66.82; 2. E. Zverev (Bel) 65.30; 3. N. Sedova (Rus) 64.14; 4. L. Kucherenko (Rus) 63.02; 5. F. Fautsch (GER) 62.93; 6. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.84; 7. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.75; 8. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.66; 9. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.57; 10. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.48; 11. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.39; 12. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.30.

Javelin
Qualifying
62.50 metres or leading 12 qualify for final

QUALIFIERS: Group A: 1. H. Hattala (Ger) 59.12m; 2. H. Hattala (Ger) 59.03m; 3. M. Meyer-Tanaka (GER) 58.94m; 4. F. Thea (Fin) 58.85m; 5. O. Chermakova (Rus) 58.76m; 6. O. Chermakova (Rus) 58.67m; 7. O. Chermakova (Rus) 58.58m; 8. O. Chermakova (Rus) 58.49m; 9. O. Chermakova (Rus) 58.40m; 10. O. Chermakova (Rus) 58.31m; 11. O. Chermakova (Rus) 58.22m; 12. O. Chermakova (Rus) 58.13m.

Women
200 metres
Semi-finals
First four in each heat qualify to final

QUALIFIERS: Heat one: 1. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 2. J. Patuschew (UK) 22.55; 3. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 4. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 5. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 6. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 7. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 8. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 9. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 10. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 11. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 12. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55.

Shot
Final
1. A. Kumburuss (Ger) 20.71m; 2. V. Smith (UK) 20.62; 3. S. Strip (Ger) 20.52; 4. V. Smith (UK) 20.43; 5. V. Smith (UK) 20.34; 6. V. Smith (UK) 20.25; 7. V. Smith (UK) 20.16; 8. V. Smith (UK) 20.07; 9. V. Smith (UK) 19.98; 10. V. Smith (UK) 19.89; 11. V. Smith (UK) 19.80; 12. V. Smith (UK) 19.71.

Discus
Final
1. F. Fautsch (GER) 66.82; 2. E. Zverev (Bel) 65.30; 3. N. Sedova (Rus) 64.14; 4. L. Kucherenko (Rus) 63.02; 5. F. Fautsch (GER) 62.93; 6. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.84; 7. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.75; 8. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.66; 9. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.57; 10. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.48; 11. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.39; 12. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.30.

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Women
200 metres
Semi-finals
First four in each heat qualify to final

QUALIFIERS: Heat one: 1. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 2. J. Patuschew (UK) 22.55; 3. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 4. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 5. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 6. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 7. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 8. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 9. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 10. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 11. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55; 12. M. Szabo (Hun) 22.55.

Shot
Final
1. A. Kumburuss (Ger) 20.71m; 2. V. Smith (UK) 20.62; 3. S. Strip (Ger) 20.52; 4. V. Smith (UK) 20.43; 5. V. Smith (UK) 20.34; 6. V. Smith (UK) 20.25; 7. V. Smith (UK) 20.16; 8. V. Smith (UK) 20.07; 9. V. Smith (UK) 19.98; 10. V. Smith (UK) 19.89; 11. V. Smith (UK) 19.80; 12. V. Smith (UK) 19.71.

Discus
Final
1. F. Fautsch (GER) 66.82; 2. E. Zverev (Bel) 65.30; 3. N. Sedova (Rus) 64.14; 4. L. Kucherenko (Rus) 63.02; 5. F. Fautsch (GER) 62.93; 6. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.84; 7. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.75; 8. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.66; 9. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.57; 10. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.48; 11. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.39; 12. E. Zverev (Bel) 62.30.

Javelin
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FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The company below has reserved their outdial for the 1997 Calendar. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to compete for a regional final.

Meas Pierson

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
8 AUG	CORE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (U.K.) LTD	SELDOON PARK	20
8 AUG	DATA CONNECTION LTD	ENFIELD	40
8 AUG	MCDERMOTT MARINE CONSTRUCTION LTD	BALLATER	40
8 AUG	WATSON BUILDING SOCIETY	WENTWORTH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	24
8 AUG	MORFOT OPTOELECTRONICS DIVISION	CHURSTON	120
8 AUG	SCIENTIFIC GLASS LABORATORIES LTD	GREENWAY HALL	28
8 AUG	TAYLOR JOYNSON GARRETT	COOMBE HILL	16
10 AUG	THE LAMP COMPANY	FORTHSTOWN HILL	24
11 AUG	COMMERCIAL UNION TRIANGULAR EVENT	CHESTERTON	40
12 AUG	SPECIALIST COMPUTER CENTRES LTD	WENTWORTH	24
13 AUG	ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE PLC	HAWKSTONE PARK HOTEL	50
13 AUG	OLYN ROWETT INSURANCE FACILITIES	ST AUGUSTINE	50
13 AUG	VENOR BUILDING SOCIETY	STOCKPORT	45
14 AUG	ALLIED DUNBAR (YORK)	EASINGWOLD	48
14 AUG	AVON INSURANCE PLC	STRATFORD UPON AVON	30
14 AUG	HELEN LATHAM PROMOTIONS	WOLSTON	100
14 AUG	PATTON GROUP	BALGAM CASTLE	45
14 AUG	MORGANS LTD	KINGS LYNN	25
14 AUG	SNEL HED/STASCO	MILFORD	16
14 AUG	SHOPLAND BUILDING SOCIETY	SUTTON	100
14 AUG	KEMFORD STORES PLC	OLKE MANOR	32
15 AUG	ALEXANDER & PARTNERS	KINGS ACRE	24
15 AUG	BAYER PLC	GORING & STREATHLEY	40
15 AUG	BOYD & LLOYD OFFICE SUPPLIES LTD	TRACY PARK	35
15 AUG	CITY FINANCIAL PARTNERS LTD	WENTWORTH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	32
15 AUG	DERBY LANDSCAPES & GARDEN DESIGN	FOREST PARK	42
15 AUG	EPSON MEDICAL SERVICES	RAC COUNTRY CLUB	15
15 AUG	M & S UK	QALBANDY	128
15 AUG	NAT WEST BANK - OXFORDSHIRE CBC	FRILFORD HEATH	35

TIMETABLE

As time BST
TODAY: 16.30: Pole vault qualifying round (two groups), men's decathlon qualifying round (two groups), men's triple jump qualifying round (two groups), 17.00: Women's 200m final, 17.30: Men's 200m final, 17.30: Women's high jump qualifying round (two groups), 17.30: Men's 400m final, 18.00: Women's 400m final, 18.00: Women's 800m final, 18.00: Women's 1500m final, 18.00: Women's 3000m final, 18.00: Women's 5000m final, 18.00: Women's 10000m final, 18.00: Women's 20000m final, 18.00: Women's 40000m final, 18.00: Women's 80000m final, 18.00: Women's 16000

ATHLETICS: LONG-SERVING BRITISH CHAMPIONS ANNOUNCE DECISIONS ON RETIREMENT

Sanderson and Gunnell limp off into sunset

FROM DAVID POWELL IN ATHENS

SALLY GUNNELL and Tessa Sanderson won Olympic titles eight years apart but they confirmed their retirement from athletics within three hours of each other here at the world championships yesterday. Another day without a gold medal for Great Britain, but a golden sunset.

Sanderson is the most successful British thrower in the history of the sport. Gunnell is the most successful of all British women athletes. While Sanderson had suggested earlier that she would not continue after competing here, Gunnell's future had been less clearcut.

For Gunnell, the end was precipitated by a succession of injuries. She had not reached the final of an international

sure it was not going to go completely," she said.

Aged 31, Gunnell came to the 400 metres hurdles via a range of other events. She won her first national title as a junior long jumper in 1980 and, as a young heptathlete, set national age records. As a 100 metres hurdler, she became both Commonwealth champion and British senior record-holder. However, acknowledging that she would never win medals at world or Olympic level at that event, she stepped up in distance. Gunnell is one of only two British women to win an Olympic track title.

Among Britons, only she and Daley Thompson have won Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth gold medals and set an outdoor world record. After winning a silver medal at the 1991 world championships, she enjoyed three years in which she was invincible on the international championship stage.

Results 37
Timetable 37

championship since the 1994 Commonwealth Games. In 1995, because of an Achilles tendon injury, she was unable to defend the world title that she had won two years earlier. At the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year, she pulled up in her semi-final because of a similar injury to her right foot.

Here, in her first round on Tuesday, Gunnell suffered a slight calf muscle tear, although she recorded her best time of the season. She could have risked appearing in the semi-finals, but thought better of it. "After what happened last year, I did not want to step on the track unless I could be

Then, as she put it, her "luck ran out", although she fought back for one final moment of glory. This season, at the European Cup in Munich in June, she was thrilled to win. "If I had done well here, and got a medal, probably I would have thought it worth going to the Europeans and Commonwealth next year," she said. "But, because I got injured again, I made this decision."

It was not until Gunnell spoke to her husband, Jon Bigg, on the telephone on Tuesday night that she made up her mind to retire not only from international athletics,



Sanderson reflects on her form during the qualifying round of the javelin yesterday

but from club competition as well. Her last race will be at the international meeting at the International Stadium in Gateshead on September 7.

At the Olympics last year, Sanderson became the first British Olympian to appear in six Games. That season was her first since 1992, when she won the World Cup, the last of her international titles, which include gold from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and from three Commonwealth Games.

Her javelin career began as a bet for a bag of chips, at the age of 14, and ended with a

drugs test here, at 41. She tried throwing a javelin for the first time after striking a wager with a school friend over who could throw further. Yesterday, after her elimination in the qualifying round, she was chosen to give a urine sample. "I thought to myself: 'I am 41 years old - give me a break'."

Sanderson, here as the oldest slinger in town, made her Great Britain debut as a pentathlete in 1963 and was selected for her first Olympics in 1976. Then, as a nine-stone, fresh-faced 21-year-old, she

did not look the part. "Sprinters that way," Karin Smith, an American competitor, said, pointing her in another direction when Sanderson began to walk into the arena with other throwers.

Sanderson remains the only Briton to win an Olympic throwing event. "When I picked up that last javelin today, I felt choked," she said. "I was thinking to myself, 'I so want to qualify for the final'." She fell short by three metres. But even at her age, still she was well clear of the next best in Britain.

Silence cushions drug cheats' fall

Rob Hughes takes a tough line with the IAAF for failing to speak out loud and clear against a cancer within athletics

Like a dark shadow appearing in a lung, doping reappeared at the world athletics championships yesterday, proving that the disease is rampant.

The announcement came on the sixth day of competition here in Athens, a place that Homer told us is the birthplace of culture, justice and democracy. The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), the governing body of the sport, made neither apology nor much ado of the statement: "In laboratory analysis, samples submitted by three athletes - shot-putter Aleksandr Bagach, of Ukraine, 400-metres hurdler Pascal Maran, of France, and triple jumper Oksana Zelikina, of Kazakhstan - have tested positive for the stimulant, ephedrine. Following the recent decision by the IAAF Congress, these athletes will be issued a public warning and disqualified from the competition. The results they achieved at these world championships have been cancelled."

And the press conference? Giorgio Ranieri, the chief press officer to the governing body, was astonished that we asked, "No, absolutely not," he retorted. "We made a press release, there is no press conference, the matter is closed."

The IAAF may wish it so, but this blot on the sport, this withering acceptance of an aid to cheating that is as corrosive

as the pollution to the ancient Greek monuments, cannot and should not be so dismissively accepted. We are told that Primo Nebiolo, the Italian president of the IAAF, is tired of doping. We are told that Professor Arne Ljungqvist, the respected Swede who is the medical delegate to the IAAF, has been telling his president for years that it is hopeless, whatever one's personal view, trying to fight the drug-abusers in the courts.

So, abandon propriety. Tickle the drug cheats on the wrist. Accept, or ignore, their explanations and let the games continue. Oh, how we would warm, if we could, to such blinkered thinking. There has been real pleasure here, the joy between athletes that you could witness in no other walk of life. There was the Norman Wisdom smile on the face of the

Ethiopian, Haile Gebrselassie, for a third time the winner at 10,000 metres. There were tears of pride rolling down the cheeks of Hicham El Guerrouj, the Moroccan winning for the first time the 1,500 metres.

There was the manifest respect between Sabine Braun and Denise Lewis, German and English, white and black, hands linked after examining the will and the skill of one another over seven different events in the heptathlon.

One wants to believe, to share the passion of these and many, many more, yet the conspiracy between an acquiescent authority and the widespread habit among athletes is a constant warning never to sleep on joy when the morning may bring a hangover such as yesterday. Small wonder that Nebiolo does not address us. He, the figure-

head of athletics, plays his own games. This week, the Greek Government and the Italian sporting supremo were engaged in a petty, ugly and devious slanging match, all because the stadium here has only been full on one of the six days.

If we can not believe our eyes, nor that natural chemistry is propelling excellence, then why should \$2,000 people per day pay to watch what they invented?

They certainly had cause to doubt Bagach. He accepted the first gold in the Olympic Stadium and became, not for the first time, the first to sully it. In 1989, he was a medal-winner at the European Cup stripped of his honour and banned for two years for excessive testosterone. He had not thrown as far since that illegal time until this one in Athens.

But, say the wise and the blasé, everyone knows the shot is riddled with steroid monsters. Bagach had himself profited with a world championships bronze medal in 1993 after Mike Stulce, of the United States, was disqualified for using drugs.

The IAAF was last night trying to get the gold medal back, though Bagach had not received the \$60,000 (about £35,000) prize for some reason, the authority withheld it until the automatic drug tests were complete. The other two, lesser-known and far from victorious athletes who failed their test, show how the drug disease has spread to most disciplines. The Frenchman, Maran, had an excuse - he stated that he had taken a dietary supplement on which he could not read the ingredients, because they were in Chinese!



Bagach acclaims the victory of which he has been stripped

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 34

TEISE

(c) To drive, especially a hunted beast. To chase or urge on. Different forms from *teise*, though in late use it may have been sometimes associated with the latter in its modern sense, and hence confounded in spelling with it. Keats, *Isabella*, 1819: "They did tease/ Their horses homeward, with convulsed spur."

UPHEND

(b) To catch or snatch up. To take up or raise. From the Middle Danish, a rare source of English. "He would not leave the corpses fair in field/ But in their arms the soldiers both upend."

THEODOSIAN

(c) A follower of Theodosius, a rhetorician of Alexandria, who became (AD 535) the leader of a division of the Monophysites. "Theodosians held that the persons of the Trinity are not the same, that none of them exists of himself, and of his own nature, but that there is a common god or deity existing in them all, and that each is God, by a participation of this deity."

URSON

(c) The Canada porcupine, *Erethizon dorsatus*. From the French *ourson*, a little bear, the diminutive of *ours*. "The urson is a native of Hudson's Bay. Several of the trading Americans depend on them for food at some seasons of the year."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qh6 2 Nf7 checkmate

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS WEEKEND?

ARE YOU SURE?

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE WEATHER FORECAST. MORNINGS ON SKY. 24 HOURS ON CABLE.

THE WEATHER CHANNEL

TELEVISION CHOICE

More pet hates outed



Neil Morrissey airs his dislikes (BBC2)

Room 101

BBC2, 10.00pm

Neil Morrissey once worked on Noel's House Party, but he recovered to become a Man Behaving Badly and a much-prized guest on shows such as this. His pet hates give excellent value, encompassing everything that means having to get up before lunchtime, Germany, the Bay City Rollers and American football. He has to tread a little carefully on Germany, not just because he owns a BMW but, well, we are all in the European Union now. Morrissey also chooses 3-2-1, surely the only game show which Britain has imported from Spain. As usual, the host, Nick Hancock, does his best to trump his guest with carefully-prepared quips. To his credit, however, Hancock is not too embarrassed to send himself up by showing an unflattering appearance in an ad for a breakfast cereal.

Gardeners' World

BBC2, 8.30pm

From his garden in Hampshire, Alan Titchmarsh shows us how to install a solar-powered fountain. It seems a good idea, though it is a fair-weather one. If you want the fountain to cheer you up on a grey day, you will have to find an alternative power source. The Irish potato famine of the 1840s may be an unlikely topic for a gardening programme but the blight which caused it is still around. Moreover, there are new and more virulent strains which are devastating the orthodox remedies. Pippa Greenwood, the show's resident bugs and pests expert, comes to the rescue. Otherwise the emphasis is on visiting other people's gardens. One is in Croydon, a long, narrow strip stocked with rare or unusual plants. The other is in the Peak District where Catherine, a knowledgeable and organised 12-year-old, helps to run things for her disabled grandmother.

Rab C. Nesbitt

BBC2, 9.30pm

Last week Gregor Fisher's string-vested sage seemed to be getting a bit serious, going on about the closure of the Glasgow shipyards and how unemployment was turning the young to crime. As if to compensate, tonight's episode abandons social

criticism completely and returns Rab to his former nonsense. He has decided to mark his middle age by starting an allotment, though in one of his periodic addresses to camera he has a ruler name for it which even those south of the border should have no difficulty understanding. Unsurprisingly, the allotment has little if anything to do with the main plot, which is about an old flame of Mrs Rab, and a gangster to boot, who turns up after 20 years and tries to seduce her. Or perhaps plot is too strong a word. The show works best when it meanders, and there is plenty of that.

Friends

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Here is an episode which will delight regular viewers and completely baffle those coming to the show for the first time. Addicts who have followed the doings of the beautiful and handsome sextet thus far may have wondered what they were getting up to before they settled into their current pattern. Prompted by a question from the outside, Janice, about which of the six has slept with any of the others, the action suddenly moves back three years to supply the answer. Since it is an axiom of *Friends* that the characters never quite finish what they start, the outcome of the various couplings is predictable. But there are other landmarks, such as Chandler and Joey becoming room-mates, Rachel about to be married and Monica's life is a lesbian.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

BBC Proms 97

Radio 3, 7.00pm

If you go to the Proms just to buy the tunes - and I know some who do - you won't feel short-changed tonight. For this, you must thank Dvorák. The BBC SO ends its concert with his eighth symphony, so full of lovely tunes that, even with a shoe-horn, you couldn't possibly squeeze another one in. The No 8 was used, memorably, in a radio serialisation of Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield* some years ago. If you are hungry for even more Dvorák melodies, then try the two movements from his "Dumky" piano trios played by the Guarneri Trio (during Musical Encounters at 10.00pm) and the whole of his "American" string quartet No 12 played by the Panopticon Quartet (during *In Tune* at 6.05pm). Peter Daville

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 World Athletics 7.30 Voting for Britain 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Music Review 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Performance 9.30 John Peel 10.05 Business 10.15 Learning World 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Quizmaster 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Computers at Work 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsday 3.05 Out 3.20 Multitrack 4.05 Football 4.15 Code Breakers 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport Today 6.15 World Today 6.30 News in German 6.40 Spotlight 6.45 Sport 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.01 Out 8.30 Multitrack 9.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 People and Politics 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05 Out 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 From the Weeklies 1.45 Britain 2.30 Code Breakers 2.45 The Insider's Guide 2.55 Spotlight 3.30 People and Politics 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Out 4.45 Off the Shelf 5.00 Out 5.45 Music Brief

CLASSIC FM

4.00pm Saly Peterson 6.00 Alan Marin 6.00 Henry Kelly 7.00pm Linnaeus' Beechwood 8.00 Classic Concerto 9.00 Piano Concerto in A minor 9.30 Jamie Croft 7.00 Newsnight 7.30 Sonatas. Lasker (Violin Sonatas in G minor, Op 5 No 11) 8.00 Schubert (Quartet in E flat, D 87); Beethoven (Six Bagatelles, Op 108) 10.00 Michael Murphy 2.00 Concerto

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky 5.00 Paul Coyne (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Jasey Lee Grace 2.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

(La Mer). With the National Youth Orchestra. 5.00 Musical Machine. Tommy Pannoy looks at the fusion of styles explored by Ravel and Debussy. 5.15 In Tune, with Anthony Barton, includes Elgar (Concerto No 1 in C); Suk (Fantasie Scherzo); Dvorák (Singing Quartet No 12 in F, Op 55, American). 7.00 BBC Proms 97. See Choice 7.45 Book of the Month. Christopher Isherwood reviews Saul Bellow's new novel. The Actual and looks at the literary impact of the Nobel Prize-winning writer. 8.05 Concert, part two. See Choice. 9.20 Five Poems for 50 Years: The Shadow of God, by Ken Smith. A tale of the 50 years of the work in Mohacs, southern Hungary which brings together of wild, hairy-faced men to the streets of the town. Smith's work also chronicles the lives of the town's people - the massacre of 30,000 Hungarians by the invading Ottoman army (1). 9.45 Pictorial Plays: Mozart and Sorcerer. A piano recital from London. The Actual and looks at the impact of the Nobel Prize-winning writer. 10.05 Concert, part two. See Choice. 10.30 BBC Proms 97. The Georgian all-male Rustaveli Choir under Andrew Lloyd Webber. 11.30 Proms Composers of the Week: Messiaen (1). 12.30pm Head Boy, Soft Focus, Ayn Shipton looks at the history of the film. 1.00 Through the Night, with David Mead. Includes Auber (Le Domino Noir); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 23 in A, K488); Shostakovich (Symphony No 10).

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 11.30 News: Yous and Yours (FM) 6.05 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.45 Core Caren. Times columnist Alan Coward reads extracts from his new book 6.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's castaway is Dr Robert Winston (1) 9.45 Rosburgh's Russia. Angus Rosburgh finds out what has happened to the authors, poets, playwrights and artists who have inspired social change in Russia 10.00 News: Here Comes the Boss: Naled Excellence (FM). Sales of books by American management gurus proliferated during the 1980s but in the downloading 1990s, does management exist? (3/4) 10.00 An Act of Worship (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30-1.00pm Traffic and Weather Special (LW). Coverage of the second day's play in the 6th Test at Trent Bridge 10.30 Women's Hour (FM), with Sheila MacLennan 12.00 The Natural History Programme (FM) 12.05 News: Yous and Yours (FM), with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Food Programme (FM) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40-7.00 Test Match Special (LW) 1.40 The Archers (FM) (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast, 2.00 News: Summer Series: All Things Beatey Tree (FM), by Gwyn Thomas, dramatised in three episodes by Alan Plater. With Ian Hughes and Patrick Brannan. The two workers passed up and has been moved down by soldiers and Leigh has become an accessory to a murder (3/4) (3/4) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift (FM), See Choice 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope (FM), Tim Marlow Investigates Little Known Museum in London a new book which illustrates 30 overlooked museums. Plus Gilbert Adair's collection *Surfing the Zeitgeist* 4.45 Short Story: Brief Encounter (FM), written by Herbert Wilshire 5.00 PM (FM) 5.55 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News (FM) 6.30 Going Places (FM). The novelist E.V. Thompson goes on the Daphne du Maurier trail 7.00 News (FM) 7.05 The Archers 7.30 Pick of the Week. Selected by Chris Sale 8.05 No End of a Boom. Peter Day finds out why some people think the good days could go on forever 8.50 Lost Childhood: Stephanie's Story. The first in a four-part series about children who have lost out on a normal childhood (1) 9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope: Festivals Flat, Wet and Wide (1) 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love on a Branch Line, by John Hadfield (10/10) (1) 11.00 Mammam. A new series of the satirical comedy about a large corporation. New Labour invites industrialists to advise the administration. Written by WB Buckley, Nick Hildred, Hugh Pryor and David Spicer 11.25 The Junction. Patrick Harner and guests take a sceptical look at the week's events 11.45 The Big Umbrella. Nigel Lewis ponderes on metaphors and a past, magical world where to be born is to be mad (1) 12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: Kitchen, by Banana Yoshimoto. Read by Emily Watson (3/5) (1) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 695, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 698. LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1058, 1080. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McInnes.

After this, how can they possibly live again?

How to begin? With a moment's silence? Or a sigh? Or perhaps with a reflective pause while we all work out what we're going to do with Thursday nights for the rest of our lives. This *Life* (BBC2) is over and this life, along with millions of metropolitan others, will never be quite the same again.

But while you work out how you're going to mourn its passing, I'm going to get on with a little explanation. There's been a change of plan, you see. Plan A was to say that *This Life* was wonderful, that I couldn't live without it and how dare the BBC even dream of commissioning a third series. "Outstanding," observed Warren (Jason Hughes) as he returned for the final seconds and raised a glass to toast the chaos that confronted him. Warren was right, it was outstanding but, thanks to the superb construction of Richard Zed's script, it was also complete. As sure as egg is to egg, *This Life* was over, finished, at an end. Bringing it back could only diminish the perfection of what went before.

Perfection, on second thoughts, might be going a bit far. Last night's final episode certainly owed a significant debt to *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, right down to the haymaker punch with which Millie probably broke Rachel's nose. But derivative or not, it

was definitely the end. Miles had married the wrong woman, Anna was drunk, Millie and Egg were no longer an item... there was no way back from this, without doing irreparable damage to the authenticity that has underpinned the series for 21 glorious weeks.

Other attributes — the distinctive look, the well-crafted scripts — have been praised here and elsewhere. But my abiding memory, especially if this is the last we see of the present cast, will be of the characterisation, which in terms of contemporary television drama has been unrivalled. There was no black-and-white, good-guy/bad-guy stuff. Each character was a shade of grey, sometimes nasty, sometimes nice — which, to use the time-honoured phrase, was "just like real life".

It was this synthesis of casting, writing, acting and directing that

allowed a character such as Miles (Jack Davenport) to glide effortlessly from being a total prat in one scene to romantic hero in the next. Similarly, it was why I at least, was never quite sure about Rachel (Michelle Williams) until last night, when she shamelessly voiced her suspicions about Millie and O'Donnell to the hitherto unsuspecting Egg. What a cow. The six principals (including Warren) have been rightly lauded,

but so too should be the well-marshalled supporting cast, who would pop up for a couple of scenes, or even a episode, only to disappear into the running subplots again. It is easy to warm to the likes of Steve John Shepherd's Jo or Luisa Bradshaw-White's Kira, and I wish Miles had met Rachel Fielding's Francesca a little earlier in the run, but spare a thought for those whose lot it was to be less than winning, specifically David Maffinson's increasingly ghastly O'Donnell (I still wince at the memory of that shoulder massage) and Natasha Little's splendidly ambiguous Rachel.

That's about it. I shall miss the only house in London to serve pints of draught Soave, but it's time to bid farewell to Anna and the gang. After what they went through last night, they could only come back as the battle-scarred stars of a British *thirtysomething*: older, wiser and a lot less promising.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

curious. Mind you, I used to love *thirtysomething*.

There is a link to our next programme, *Secrets of the Gobi Desert* (Channel 4) but hold on, because it's a tortuous one. In its early days, *This Life* was frequently compared to *Friends*, the American sitcom. One of the leading characters in *Friends* is Ross, who just happens to be a palaeontologist at the American Museum of Natural History. The stars of last night's desert documentary were... real life palaeontologists at the American Museum of Natural History. There, made it.

I always get nervous about documentaries when we haven't reached our destination by the first commercial break, but in this case my doubts were misplaced. Get to the Gobi desert eventually did, whereupon the seriously-bearded Mike and Mark (who looked nothing like Ross, but very like each

other) could barely move without falling over dinosaur remains. The team apparently found 12 specimens in the first half-hour, although, strangely, the camera never seemed to be there to show in the discovery of any of them.

Perhaps due to an interesting but ultimately distracting reliance on the extensive film archive of an earlier expedition to Mongolia, led by Roy Chapman Andrews in 1922, we never quite bonded with the modern team. One minute their vehicles were breaking down a lot in the desert, the next they were loading large lumps of fossil-bearing rocks into lorries. The accompanying science was fairly unremarkable (dinosaurs evolve into birds, shock) but the time lapse photographs of a carapace emerging from its rocky grave was remarkable. The big question, however, remained. What on earth are we going to watch next Thursday?

6.00am Business Breakfast (33021)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (45779)
9.00am Breakfast News Extra (1) (452408)
9.20am Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (5403798)
9.50am Esther (1) (5399885)

10.20am The Roadshow Collection (1) (5399155)
10.45 News (1) and weather (7849359)
10.50am Crick: Fifth Test — England v Australia. Live coverage of the opening session of day two (5011809)

1.00pm News (1) and weather (48888)
1.30am Regional News (8811432)
1.40am Crick: Fifth Test — England v Australia. Coverage of the afternoon session of the second day at Trent Bridge. Continues on BBC2 (5241882)

4.00am Popeye (2236427) 4.05 *Ben Hur* (2236798) 4.10 *Prince of Atlantis* (2236779)

4.40am World Championship Athletics Live coverage from day seven in Athens. The final of the men's 100m, plus the final of the women's 200m. Plus, the long-awaited clash for the men's 200m final between Frankie Fredericks and In-form Ali Baidon. Plus, the men's 800m final, which is expected to produce another gold medal for Kenyan-born Wilson Kipketer (1) (516137)

6.10am News (1) and weather (18785)
6.40am Regional News (225779)
7.00am Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook Bob Holness and John Barnes bring in a bag of mystery ingredients, hoping Alsey Harriot and Paul Rankin can whip up a scrumptious meal in a mere 20 minutes. Presented by Fern Britton (1) (1040)

7.30am Top of the Pops (1) (663)
8.00am Only Fools and Horses: The Chance of Luncheon An audition gives Rachel the chance of a lifetime to win a place on the hit of the flat (1) (1) (394971)

8.50am Get Fit with Britney: Gordon Works It Out Bird of a Feather Lesley Joseph teams up with Gordon to investigate the cut of the workout (1) (823040)

9.00am News (1) and weather (8175)
9.30am The Paper (1994) A star-studded cast, including Michael Keaton, Glenn Close, Maria Tomei, Robert Duvall and Randy Quaid, in a satirical drama chronicling a day in the life of a struggling New York tabloid, where the harassed editor is constantly balancing his complex private life with the demands of looming deadlines. Directed by Ron Howard (1) (827040)

11.15am Slaying Alvin (1983) John Travolta reprises his Saturday Night Fever role as discotheque star Tony Manero, now a struggling dancer trying to make it big in a spectacular new Broadway musical while dividing his affections between two girlfriends. Directed by Sylvester Stallone (1) (733378)

12.45am The World of America (1990) with Matt Seidinger. The exploits of Marvel Comics' Second World War hero are brought to life in this fantasy adventure. Directed by Albert Pyun (1) (818118)

2.15am Weather (1822441)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V), PlusCode (P) and Video Programme are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

11.55am The Gambler (1974) A successful professor battles with his obsession for gambling. Starring James Caan and Lauren Hutton. Directed by Carol Reed (1) (33577)

1.45am When London Sleeps (1932, b/w) Vintage crime thriller with Harold Krass (1) (104422)

2.55am Weather (7870373)

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6.00am Open University: Picturing the Modern City (332235) 6.25 *Modeling in the Long Term* (332232) 6.50 *Manage This Change* (344514)

7.15am See Hear Breakfast News (1) and signing (5244595)

7.30am Teletubbies (1) (4845717) 7.55 *Charlie Chalk* (1) (1833265) 8.10 *Raccoons* (1) (5940224) 8.40 *Cartoon Critics* (1) (5303569) 9.10 *Splendium* (1) (5451675) 9.25 *Spot Rider* (1) (5307507) 10.00 *Pat and the Pals* (1) (1) (30359)

10.30am Mr Benn (1) (2331317) 10.45 *Teletubbies* (1) (315084) 11.15 *Harry and the Hendersons* (1) (1) (4708040)

11.40am I Could Go on Singing (1983) Judy Garland gives her final leading performance in this musical drama. Also with Dick Bogarde and Jack Kugan, directed by Ronald Neame (7190595)

1.15pm Glynn Christian Tastes Royal Thailand (1041717) 1.40 *Blockbusters* (5806046) 2.05 *Open View* (2303156) 2.05 *The Natural World Classics Britain's coastline* (1) (3090838) 3.00 *News* (2543058) 3.05 *Manus and Music* (4304448) 3.20 *Uitlilans in a Day* John Manchester (2647885) 3.30 *The Season* (5294448) 3.55 *News* (7251317)

4.00am Crick: Fifth Test — England v Australia. Further live coverage from Trent Bridge (8997595)

6.10am World Athletics Championships Live coverage from Athens featuring the women's 400m hurdles final, the semi-finals of the women's sprint relay and the 100m final, which is expected to produce another gold medal for Kenyan-born Wilson Kipketer (1) (516137)

6.00am The World's Toughest Yacht Race The final leg: Boston, Massachusetts, to Southampton (8303)

8.30am Gardeners' World with Alan Titchmarsh, Stephen Lacey, Elaine Waters and Pippa Greenwood (1) (157)

9.00am Bottom (1) (1) (5717)

9.30am Lab Coat Heallit: Will Mary leads a further field for romance. With Gregor Fisher and Elaine C. Smith (19779)

10.00am Room 101 Neil Morrisey talks to Nick Hancock about his pet hates (1) (96330)

10.30am Newsnight (1) (421885)

11.15am Crick: Fifth Test (74953)

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6.00am GMTV (7876243)
9.25am Win, Lose or Draw (1) (1) (5497137)
9.55am Judge Judy (1) (3358663)
10.20am News (1) (6143311)
10.25am Regional News (1) (6142682)

10.30am Woman on the Run: The Lawrence Bembek Story Conclusion of the drama about a woman sentenced to life in prison for the murder of her husband. Each character was a shade of grey, sometimes nasty, sometimes nice — which, to use the time-honoured phrase, was "just like real life".

12.30am Regional News (1) (4783885)
12.35am News (1) (2244972)
12.55am Designed by Emanuel (1223663) 1.25 *Home and Away* (1) (1427224)

1.50am The Hollywood Detective (1988) with Telly Savalas, Helen Udy and George Cos. A former television detective teams up with his old scriptwriter to solve a real-life mystery. Directed by Kevin Connor (183234)

3.18am HTV Crimebusters (2653446)
3.25am Regional News (1) (2542330)
3.30am Rialto and Film (1) (5819533) 3.40 *Packaging Bear* (748683) 3.50 *Zappa* (1) (577175) 4.00 *The Blue Rose* (1) (261205) 4.15 *The Real Ghostbusters* (1) (5484840) 4.40 *You'll Never Believe It* (1) (288158)

5.10am A Country Practice (1) (2782155)
5.40am News (1) and weather (319021)
6.00am Home and Away (1) (193446)
6.25am HTV Weather (206917)

6.30am The West Tonight (1) (175)
7.00am Beattie's Hottshots Jeremy Beattie presents viewers' send-up videos of television programmes and advertisements (1) (3408)

7.30am Coronation Street Leanne has an eventful first day at Underworld (1) (359)

8.00am The Bill: Glass House Bouton (Russell Bouton) and Lines (Kevin Lloyd) assist a woman who has discovered her husband is involved in a drugs deal (1) (2158)

8.30am Surprise! Surprise! Guests include Gary Barlow, Tim Vincent and Riverdance star Joanne Dwyer (1) (52601)

9.30am Tarrant on TV (1) (85755)
10.00am News (1) and weather (319021)
10.30am The West Tonight Update (812243)
10.40am Late and Live (6675330)

12.10am The Weekly World News (8431880)
12.40am The Paul Ross Show (2721064)
2.10am Something to Hide (1971) With Peter Finch, Shelley Winters and Colin Blakely. A civil servant is drawn into a bizarre series of events leading to murder. Directed by Alastair Reid (704286)

3.58am Sound Bites (5813733)
4.10am Coach (1) (2313480)
4.35am Invitation to Remember (1) (7050625)
5.00am Coronation Street (1) (11248)
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5.00am Coronation Street (1) (11248)
5.30am News (16193)

8.00 The Bill: Glass House Bouton (Russell Bouton) and Lines (Kevin Lloyd) assist a woman who has discovered her husband is involved in a drugs deal (1) (2158)

8.30am Surprise! Surprise! Guests include Gary Barlow, Tim Vincent and Riverdance star Joanne Dwyer (1) (52601)

9.30am Tarrant on TV (1) (85755)
10.00am News (1) and weather (319021)
10.30am The West Tonight Update (812243)
10.40am Late and Live (6675330)

6.00am GMTV (7876243)
9.25am Win, Lose or Draw (1) (1) (5497137)
9.55am Judge Judy (1) (3358663)
10.20am News (1) (6143311)
10.25am Regional News (1) (6142682)

10.30am Woman on the Run: The Lawrence Bembek Story Conclusion of the drama about a woman sentenced to life in prison for the murder of her husband. Each character was a shade of grey, sometimes nasty, sometimes nice — which, to use the time-honoured phrase, was "just like real life".

12.30am Regional News (1) (4783885)
12.35am News (1) (2244972)
12.55am Designed by Emanuel (1223663) 1.25 *Home and Away* (1) (1427224)

1.50am The Hollywood Detective (1988) with Telly Savalas, Helen Udy and George Cos. A former television detective teams up with his old scriptwriter to solve a real-life mystery. Directed by Kevin Connor (183234)

3.18am HTV Crimebusters (2653446)
3.25am Regional News (1) (2542330)
3.30am Rialto and Film (1) (5819533) 3.40 *Packaging Bear* (748683) 3.50 *Zappa* (1) (577175) 4.00 *The Blue Rose* (1) (261205) 4.15 *The Real Ghostbusters* (1) (5484840) 4.40 *You'll Never Believe It* (1) (288158)

5.10am A Country Practice (1) (2782155)
5.40am News (1) and weather (319021)
6.00am Home and Away (1) (193446)
6.25am HTV Weather (206917)

6.30am The West Tonight (1) (175)
7.00am Beattie's Hottshots Jeremy Beattie presents viewers' send-up videos of television programmes and advertisements (1) (3408)

7.30am Coronation Street Leanne has an eventful first day at Underworld (1) (359)

8.00am The Bill: Glass House Bouton (Russell Bouton) and Lines (Kevin Lloyd) assist a woman who has discovered her husband is involved in a drugs deal (1) (2158)

8.30am Surprise! Surprise! Guests include Gary Barlow, Tim Vincent and Riverdance star Joanne Dwyer (1) (52601)

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10.00am News (1) and weather (319021)
10.30am The West Tonight Update (812243)
10.40am Late and Live (6675330)

12.10am The Weekly World News (8431880)
12.40am The Paul Ross Show (2721064)
2.10am Something to Hide



SAILING 34

Crash course costs Britain dear in Admiral's Cup

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 8 1997

FOOTBALL 35

Who will displace Manchester United as English champions?



England battle against the odds after Atherton loses vital toss at Trent Bridge

Australia answer Taylor's call

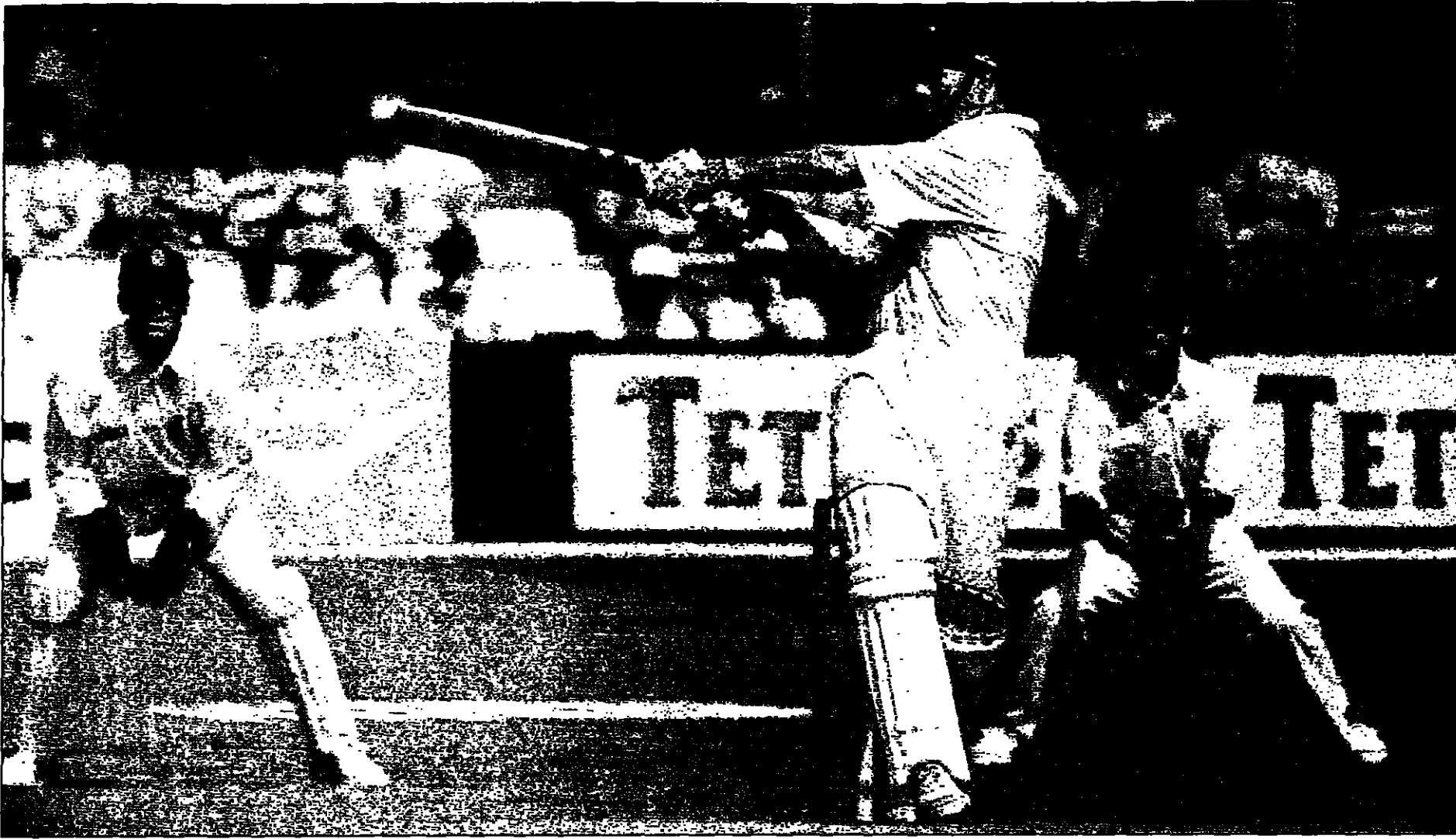
By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of five: Australia won toss): Australia have scored 302 for three wickets against England

IT MIGHT be thought that the course of this fifth Cornhill Test was clear by tea-time yesterday, when Australia had reached 181 for two, or even by lunch, when they were 84 without loss. In truth, though, it was dictated before play, in the moment when Mark Taylor defied logic by winning his fifth consecutive toss.

On the first genuine pitch of summer, that was little short of calamitous for Michael Atherton, the England captain. Deprived of Darren Gough, whose absence so weakened the seam attack that it also scuppered the plan to play two spinners, England were ill-equipped to subdue, much less conquer, the strongest batting side in the world.

They were not disgraced. Indeed, on a day to leave throats parched and skin pink, there were no dropped catches and they bowled with



Elliott, the Australia opener, pulls Headley for four after the touring side took control of the fifth Test from before the start of the opening session at Trent Bridge yesterday

Letters 17
Rude awakening 37
County reports 36-37

admirable discipline. Dean Headley was the pick and, perversely, had he bowled with such control at Headingley, the outcome might have been different. Andy Caddick also impressed.

On the one line of the ledger that counts, however, England recorded only three wickets, while the Australian top four all reached fifty. Today, unless they decline early and dramatically, Australia can be expected to push on towards 500, a total that will put this match, and the Ashes, beyond England's reach.

Short of using a double-headed coin, Atherton was powerless in the most significant act of the day. Taylor's customary call of tails was correct again and one can only imagine the involuntary groan in the England dressing-room as Atherton signalled that they would be in the field.

England had decided to make do with only one slow bowler and, not without debate, sent Philip Tufnell home without a game for the fifth consecutive match. It is an

unenviable distinction but, on this occasion, it confirmed an even rarer occurrence, the brothers Holloake making their debuts together.

It was a glorious morning, the sky clear blue and the temperature rising towards 29C. Before a capacity crowd, on the homeliest of England's Test grounds, it was a day made for batting, and there was a sense of inevitability about what was to come. Before play began, the spread betting firms were trading the Australia total at upwards of 400 and still the punters were telling them they were too low.

For such gambling fingers to be burned, England needed wickets while the air remained hazy and the new ball swung. They might easily have had a couple, too, for Matthew Elliott reinforced his reputation as a player born with the good fortune to go with his durable temperament. Twice, in

Headley's second over, he survived plausible leg-before shouts; four overs later, and without a run added, he was late on his shot against the same bowler and the ball bobbled over middle stump.

Almost an hour into the day, Elliott had still made only nine when Caddick, in his first over, passed his outside edge by a whisker. Headley, maintaining a lively pace and immaculate line, was then distraught as umpire Mitchell refused yet another leg-before appeal, this time against Taylor.

These moral victories, however, were the pinnacle of England's day. Once none of them were converted to the small print of the scorecard, they knew their fate. Atherton remained pro-active and used six bowlers before lunch. Croft, who bowled five overs for one run, was the meanest; Holloake minor, whose first

three at this level cost 23, the most profligate.

This was a day to educate Ben Holloake — and, more pertinently, those who have glibly campaigned for his inclusion all summer — in the realities of Test cricket. His bowling remains innocent and this was a surface to expose it mercilessly. It is to his own credit that he emerged from the day with a wicket, and to Atherton's that he was used sparingly.

The opening stand was ended in the fourth over and by the deserving Headley. Elliott, on the back foot, connected with the thinnest of inside edges and Alec Stewart took a low catch competently.

Taylor, whose half-century was only his second in 27 Test innings, batted a further hour in his compact, unmemorable way, never quite dominating but seldom looking threatened, either, until Caddick hit

his off stump with a late inswinger.

If Mark Waugh's indolent waft at his second ball had resulted in an edge rather than an air shot, England hopes would have soared. Instead, the most sublime of batsmen settled more responsibly to his task of playing out the day and did so with only one further blemish — a technical legside stumping chance when he overbalanced against Adam Holloake.

In the final session, the Holloakes were in tandem for a while, offering the surely unprecedented spectacle of two Australians bowling to two more Australians in a Test match. Ben took his wicket when Greg Blewett, relaxing fatally one ball after completing fifty, played a forcing shot outside off stump and Stewart, who remains a fine catcher standing back, took the edge one-handed to his right.

Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA: First Innings
M T G Elliott c Stewart b Headley... 89
(157min, 117balls, 10 fours)
*M A Taylor b Caddick... 76
(216min, 155balls, 12 fours)
G S Blewett c Stewart... 50
(144min, 115balls, 7 fours)
M E Waugh not out... 60
(158min, 112balls, 6 fours)
S R Waugh not out... 38
(70min, 45balls, 5 fours)
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 3)... 9
Total (8 wickets, 90 overs, 377min)... 302
RT Ponting, SK Warne, HA Healy, J N Gillespie, PR Reiffel and GD McGrath to bat.

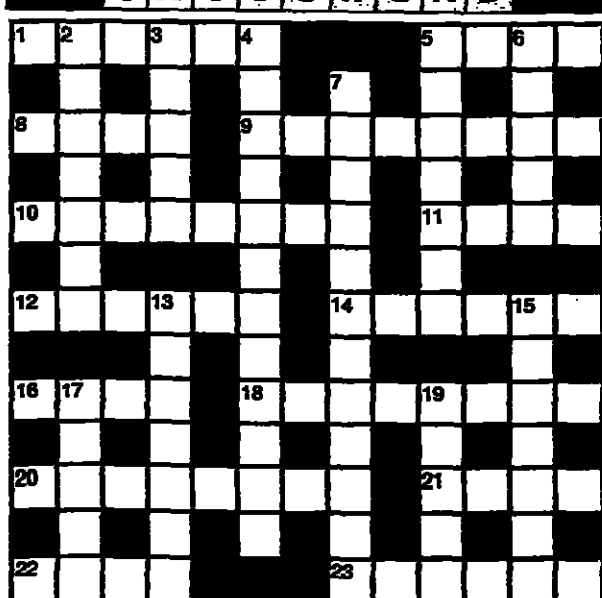
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-117 (Taylor 47, 2-180 (Blewett 11), 3-225 (M E Waugh 24).
BOWLING: Malcolm 18-3-70-0 (w 1; 9 balls, 3-1-19-0, 2-0-9-0, 5-2-16-0, 2-0-11-0, 3-0-15-0); Headley 22-4-72-1 (w 3; 10 balls, 7-3-10-0, 7-25-1, 5-1-17-0, 3-0-17-0); Caddick 18-4-51-0 (8 balls, 6-1-17-0, 11-3-28-1, 2-0-9-0); B G Holloake 8-1-40-1 (w 1; 5 balls, 3-0-22-0, 5-1-17-0); Croft 18-5-57-0 (7 balls, 5-4-1-0, 9-2-31-0, 2-0-5-0); A J Holloake 7-0-24-0 (2 balls, 2-0-7-0, 5-0-17-0).

SCORING NOTES: First day: Lunch: 84-0 (30 overs, 121min); Elliott 46, Taylor 34, Taz 181-2 (58 overs, 244 min); Blewett 25, M E Waugh 6, Ball changed at 2.53pm — Australia 142-1 (67.4 overs). Second day: First session: 5.48pm — Australia 255-3 (85.4 overs).
ENGLAND: *M A Atherton, TA J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, A J Holloake, S C Holloake, R D B Croft, A R Caddick, D W Headley, D E Malcott.
UMPIRES: C J Mitchell (South Africa) and D R Shepherd.
THIRD UMPIRE: A A Jones.
MATCH REFEREE: C W Smith (West Indies).

SERIES DETAILS: First (Edgbaston): England won by nine wickets. Second (Lord's): match drawn. Third (Old Trafford): Australia won by 208 runs. Fourth (Headingley): Australia won by an innings and 61 runs.
TO COME: Sixth (The Oval): August 21-25.
Compiled by Bill Pithall

TELEVISION: BBC1: Live 10.50pm-1.0pm, 1.40-4.0pm. BBC2: Live 4.0-6.10pm; Highlights 11.15-11.55pm.
RADIO: BBC Radio 4 (long wave only): 10.30am-1.0pm, 1.40-7.0pm.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1167

ACROSS

- 1 Unmoving; interference (6)
- 5 Barrel (4)
- 8 Blow; explosion (4)
- 9 Off sailors (8)
- 10 What's asked (8)
- 11 Buttress; pillar (4)
- 12 Arrange; a seat (6)
- 14 Anger greatly (6)
- 16 Full extent; goes with spick (4)
- 18 Crowd (8)
- 20 Ferdinand — Port, explorer (8)
- 21 Of great height (4)
- 22 Earth; base for brick (4)
- 23 High regard (6)

DOWN

- 2 Defame (7)
- 3 Lisbon river (5)
- 4 Of some size (12)
- 5 Fast ship; trimmer (7)
- 6 Money bet; post in ground (5)
- 7 Purest, most refined, form (12)
- 13 Hide-processing plant (7)
- 15 Holy Land Sea (7)
- 17 Oyster gem (5)
- 19 Sacred vocal piece (5)

The solution to 1166 will be published Wednesday, August 13. PRIZES INCLUDE POSTAGE FOR UK ONLY. SEND SAE FOR DETAILS AND PRIZES OF THE TIMES CRICKET CROSSWORD.

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'Thoughts of Jiang' spell end to state planning

BY PAUL MOONEY IN BEIJING AND JONATHAN MIRSKY

CHINA has elevated President Jiang Zemin to the ideological pantheon previously reserved for Chairman Mao and Deng Xiaoping and sounded a new death knell for state planning.

"We cannot just add the market economy onto the base of the old system. We need a total modification of the old system," the *People's Daily* said in a front-page editorial. Marking the elevation of Mr Jiang, the official newspaper of the Communist Party said that a new "ideological weapon" is now available in the form of a book compilation of 154 thoughts of Mao, Deng and Mr Jiang.

Whatever ideas Mr Jiang has had until now, they never achieved the sacred status of "thought". The book therefore is the latest shot in the barrage of praise for the President in the run-up to the fifteenth party congress which opens some time this autumn.

Always crucial, the quin-

quennial congresses establish leaders and policies for the coming five years and the next one will see the apotheosis of Mr Jiang, who already is hailed as the "core leader" with a set of titles unrivalled since Mao's death in 1976.

The congress will provide the opportunity for Mr Jiang to fill the void left by the death of Deng, the paramount leader, in February. The congress will also resolve the struggle among the rest of the leaders, the Prime Minister, and the need to install two or three new members in the Supreme Standing Committee of the Politburo.

"Coming ahead of the congress, it [the book of 'thoughts'] is an ideological weapon for our party to understand and change the world... it is a good textbook to deal with ideological and moral education," the *People's Daily* said.

But, despite the backlash against fast development, which many feel has sold out socialism, the *People's Daily* shows no interest in compromise: "The main goal of the Communist Party is to make the direction of reforms clear," the editorial said.

"After Deng Xiaoping's visit to Shenzhen [in 1992] he cut the ideological ties between the planned economy and the basics of the socialist system. For the first time we realised that socialist market economy was the only way forward," the editorial added.

"China should borrow any experience of any country that reflects the market economy."



Jiang: congress will confirm his apotheosis

Relatives demand new hunt for Korea jet bodies

BY GILES WHITTELL

FURIOUS relatives of crash victims from Korean Air Flight 801 demanded a renewed search for bodies yesterday so that their loved ones could be properly mourned, after US authorities called off the hunt to allow investigations to proceed.

The search in the valley on Guam, where the jumbo jet came down was abandoned yesterday as crash investigators arrived from Washington. By that time 99 passengers and crew had been confirmed dead, with 28 survivors. More than 130 bodies are still missing.

About 200 Koreans who flew to Guam on Wednesday had not seen the bodies of their dead relatives or been allowed to the crash site. A three-day wake before cremation or burial is customary in Korea and many believe a spirit cannot rest in peace until the body is recovered.

George Black, heading the 18-member National Transportation Safety Board team in Guam, said that the cause might not be known for a year. But he told NBC yesterday that the crash had "all the hallmarks of control-led flight into terrain", hinting that pilot error had brought the jet in several hundred feet too low on its approach.

There were angry scenes at



Carl Gutierrez, the Governor of Guam, comforts Rika Matsuda, the 11-year-old girl he rescued from the crash

a centre set up for victims' families in Agaña, Guam's capital. Women screamed and wailed near a mortuary set up in the hotel ballroom. One was treated after collapsing in distress. One man shouted: "You are liars, you are liars."

The scenes followed four bus trips for relatives to a point overlooking the crash site. Only two of the buses

were allowed to stop and no one was allowed off. "We want to get off; this is not a tour," one woman cried.

At the hotel the anger of those who had flown to Guam to recover bodies boiled over. "We don't want to stay in this country," one man yelled. "You guys just called us for sightseeing."

Admiral Marty Janczak, the

US military commander on Guam, insisted that "we are well aware of the emotions and sensitivity" of the victims' families, adding: "We are doing all we can to preserve the remains and maintain the sanctity of the bodies."

A Korean reporter charged him with allowing the crash investigation to impede the search for bodies, however,

and Admiral Janczak was obliged to admit that he had no up-to-date figure on the number of bodies recovered.

The plane's so-called black boxes were being analysed in Washington and were said to be in good condition. A computerised video of the crash, compiled from electronic data in the flight recorders, could be available as early as today.

Mother's last words: 'Take care of your father'

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN AGAÑA, GUAM

RIKA MATSUDA, the Japanese schoolgirl who survived the Korean Air disaster, yesterday relived the horror of the crash in Guam, recalling her mother's last words before being engulfed by flames: "Take care of your father."

The 11-year-old, one of 28 survivors of Flight 801 from Seoul, was rescued from the wreckage early on Wednesday by Carl Gutierrez, the Governor of Guam.

Rika was discharged from hospital yesterday to be reunited with her grieving father, who flew in from Mishima, near Tokyo. They both appeared briefly for the press.

Her father, Hatsu Matsuda, "thinks the people of the island for taking care of his daughter", an interpreter said.

The Governor described how Rika managed to crawl out of the crashed plane onto the nearby grass, and "she latched on to me as if I were her dad".

Mr Gutierrez spoke about the strange bond that had arisen between him and Rika after the rescue and said that the girl and her father were welcome as special guests at the Governor's mansion "for as long as they want to stay with us".

Kruger rhino killing raises poaching fears

Johannesburg: The killing of a white rhino in the Kruger National Park by gunmen using AK47 rifles has fanned concern among conservationists in South Africa about an escalation of poaching (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The rhino's carcass was discovered this week in Tsokwane, a popular picnic spot in the heart of the park. Police have launched an international manhunt for the gunmen who are believed to have fled across the border to Mozambique after hacking off the valuable horn.

Only weeks ago police in Johannesburg discovered several rhino horns in the boot of a vehicle amid reports of poaching operations in the province of KwaZulu/Natal.

Some conservationists argue that the finds signal a significant upsurge in illegal trading in rhino horn and ivory, and link this to the recent Convention on Trade in Endangered Species at which South Africa proposed lifting the ban on the trade in rhino horn. Other southern African countries won agreement for a limited return to ivory trading.

Volcano isle ponders plans for evacuation

BY GLEN OWEN

PLANS have been laid for the evacuation of Montserrat as further volcanic eruptions threaten the Caribbean island's remaining population.

A senior official on the neighbouring island of Guadeloupe said yesterday that the British dependency was about to be abandoned. But Bertrand Osborne, the Chief Minister, denied this, saying that there were merely contingency plans.

The Soufrière Hills volcano belched ash and red-hot rocks again yesterday, the seventh eruption since Sunday, but it was not as powerful as previous outbursts.

About 5,000 residents remain, living in makeshift huts in the north of the island. Vincent Niquet, the Guadeloupe administration's

Chief of Staff, said that an evacuation plan had been drawn up by Montserrat authorities because of the expanding reach of the volcano.

"It is four fifths complete and is being finalised," he said, adding that the plan was necessary because "intense ash and dust fallout could make the air impossible to breathe and poison the water". M Niquet said that 2,000 of the residents were destined for Guadeloupe, a French overseas département, with the remainder going to Antigua and other Caribbean islands.

The reports came as a delegation from Montserrat, headed by Mr Osborne, finished four days of talks in London with government officials.

400 Sudan rebels die as camp is destroyed

Khartoum: Four hundred rebels, members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, were killed during an attack on their camp by government forces, the official Sudanese News Agency (Suna) said yesterday.

The agency did not say when the attack took place. Quoting a military source, it reported: "The armed forces managed to destroy the rebel camp northwest of Jaldo in the Teraketa province. The rebel forces fled from the camp leaving behind 400 killed, in addition to a number of in-

jured." The source said the attack was launched by a unified force made up of the armed forces, the tribal Mundari commandos militia and the Popular Defence Force, a volunteer force formed in 1989 to help the army fight the rebels.

The agency quoted the source as saying that the Government last week recaptured Tindalo camp, 75 miles northwest of Juba, from rebel forces. The Government and the SPLA rebels have been locked in battle for the past 14 years. (Reuters)

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Lords of Pakistan fan flames of conflict

Poor left with nothing to lose as old order crumbles

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN KARACHI

PAKISTAN is a testimony to how much a country can take and survive. The killing grounds of Karachi, drugs, guns, ethnic and sectarian bloodletting, civil war in Afghanistan, a collapsing political order: few countries endure so much.

Days away from its 50th anniversary, the consequences of Pakistan's crises are visible in the desert towns of Baluchistan, the volatile Afghan refugee camps in the North West Frontier Province, the poor villages of Sindh province, the slums of Rawalpindi and the lawless streets of Peshawar.

It is also startlingly evident in Karachi, the crumbling commercial capital and only port. Karachi is central to Pakistan's survival, and what is happening in this dangerous city is a prelude to political change that must ultimately rid Pakistan of its feudal culture and open the way to genuine democracy.

About 400 families run or own practically everything in Pakistan. They dominate, manipulate and subvert a democratic system that succeeds, despite everything, in throwing governments out. This is a tribute to the underlying strength of the democratic structure, given the power of those defying it.

There has not been a census in Pakistan for 15 years because landowners oppose it, for good reason. It would rewrite the political map, moving power from the countryside to the cities and lessening the political clout of Punjab, the richest province. A census



has been promised, as it has been many times before, and fairly, will determine the direction of a country running out of options.

Pakistan's political boundaries were drawn when 90 per cent of its people lived in the countryside. That figure is now 50 per cent. The feudal aristocracy, however, continues to exert its rural power over the entire political structure. The system is disintegrating: the many-sided violence in Karachi reflects, at least in part, the early stirrings of upheaval that is bound to spread.

Benazir Bhutto, a feudal landlord and leader of the Pakistan People's Party, is backing the landed aristocracy in a battle against a modest agricultural tax the Government is trying to impose. This will further damage the credibility of a party that claims to be the party of the masses, enabling new and more legitimate forces to emerge from the lower and middle classes.

Karachi is dominated by Mohajirs, an Urdu word meaning immigrants, who came from India at the time of partition. They and their descendants have taken over this and other cities of Sindh province, while native Sindhis dominate the countryside. They hate each other. The

feudalists hate the Mohajirs, too, for bringing grassroots politics to Karachi.

The Mohajir party, the Mohajir Quami Movement, has been renamed the Muthida Quami Movement with the aim of reaching beyond its immigrant roots and uniting the lower and middle classes into an organisation that already enjoys huge support.

What happens in Karachi, which produces 70 per cent of every rupee the Government collects, reverberates nationally. The shift from feudal to people's power promises more violence. There is, therefore, little to cheer about on the 50th anniversary, Rehana Hakim, editor of the Karachi-based news magazine, *Newsline*, said many people wondered whether it was a time for celebration.

"The tribal and feudal structures are the tragedy of Pakistan," she said. "The families who dominate Pakistan are



Women grieve over the body of a Sunni Muslim among nine killed in an attack on a Lahore mosque this week

found in every government in different shapes. If there is a brother in one party there is an uncle in another. And so the stranglehold goes on. I hope the days of the feudals

are ending. They are a decaying force."

Miss Bhutto's home, Bilawal House, in the expensive Clifton district of Karachi, is a fortress with watchtowers

and 20ft walls. All feudal lords have high security, aware that they live among resentful people. While they fight modest taxes, 40 million Pakistanis live in absolute poverty and

the poorest parents in Punjab sell their children into five years' unpaid labour for 5,000 rupees (£77). The feudals have much to lose as the old order crumbles, the poor nothing.

Security tightened in Punjab

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE
IN ISLAMABAD

THE police tightened security in Lahore yesterday after 13 people were killed in two attacks on mosques in the central Punjab province, further heightening ethnic tension that has claimed about 150 lives this year.

Police intensified patrols and deployed two commandos at each of the 600 mosques in Lahore.

Nine people were killed on Wednesday when unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets on an evening congregation at the Sunni Zia-ul-Uloom mosque in Lahore. Three other people were killed the same day in Multan, also in Punjab, when a bomb exploded in a Sunni mosque.

Hundreds of people flocked to burials in Multan chanting anti-government and anti-police slogans after bazaars were closed in protest at the attacks.

150 villagers die in slaughter by Algerian rebels

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE tide of carnage sweeping Algeria has reached new levels after Islamic rebels slaughtered up to 150 villagers and kidnapped others in a series of raids.

At least 40 of the people, mostly civilians, including children and a pregnant woman, were killed over the past three days, Algerian newspapers said yesterday. Most of the killings took place in the area known as the "triangle of death" between Algiers, Larba, 15 miles to the southeast, and Blida, 30 miles south of the capital.

Among the dead were at least eight "terrorists", Algeria's official term for Muslim fundamentalist rebels, killed by security forces in Blida province, the papers said.

The newspaper *El Watan* said that in one attack overnight on Tuesday-Wednesday, nine people, including three women and three children, were killed in Oued Slama, also in Blida province.

Liberte and the Arab-language paper *Al Khabar* reported nine people killed between Larba and Sidi Moussa on the same night. *Al*

Khabar said that they were all from one family.

Liberte said that on Monday night 11 people were murdered in Medkhousa, near Tiarret, about 140 miles southwest of Algiers. Six were from one family. All had their throats cut. *Al Khabar* said that among those whose throats were cut were two women, one of whom was nine months pregnant.

In an attack in Dahmouni about 12 miles from Tiarret, four young men playing dominoes outside were chained together then killed on Monday, two newspapers said.

Some of the raids, on Sunday night, came just hours after President Zeroual promised to exterminate the Muslim guerrillas for what he described as crimes "that defy human understanding".

At least 290 people have died in the past 11 days in a string of killings. The latest killings brought to about 1,000 the number of people reported slaughtered since June 5, when Algeria held a general election that voters and officials hoped would help to usher in peace and stability.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Damp toast, gloop and Rupert's cafetière

Guy Walters remembers meal times at Eton

It is just as well that Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. If it had been waged in Eton's kitchens, then we would all be speaking French. Napoleon may have said that an army marches on its stomach, but then he never attended a British public school. The food at most is so awful that his troops, had they been fed by public school canteens, would have died within minutes from beriberi, scurvy and malnutrition.

However, the cuisine at Uppingham School in Rutland appears to have bucked this traditional trend. This week's glowing report by Egon Ronay of the school's food shows that not all public school boys will leave with palates as unsophisticated as a hog with cauterized taste buds. But at most public schools, the food is still so abysmal.

At Eton, the food is particularly unpleasant. When I was there, the British culinary revolution was something that happened in the holidays. Half of the school's 1,250 boys eat in Bekynnton — a canteen that resembles a service station gone AWOL. If the M4 had passed any closer to the school, motorists would have mistakenly stopped at Bekynnton, looked at what was on offer, and then high-tailed it down to the next Julie's Pantry or Country Kitchen.

Bekynnton was the encapsulation of mass-produced grot. Rumour had it that the bishop after whom the canteen was named died of food poisoning. I have forgotten how bad the breakfasts were, because I have shut them out of my mind. A psychiatrist specialising in recovered memory syndrome would have me wailing on his couch. If I did turn up for breakfast I would only eat toast and jam — safe, although the toast was habitually sweaty. It was rather like chewing on a wet, brown flannel.

Lunch and supper were scarcely better. Portions of stringy grey flesh masqueraded as that day's meat — until 17. I could not distinguish between lamb, beef and pork. Vegetables were boiled so mercilessly it was as though they had committed some capital offence. The beans were as grey and waterlogged as the West Country.

To add a kick in the teeth to insult, the Bekynnton powers occasionally decided to

hold a "Continental week". This involved a lot of Spanish and French paper flags being hung over the serving counter, some accents in the wrong place on the menu board, and the staff looking proud at their mastery of the word "bonjour". The food was identical, except for the application of the contents of an industrial-sized tin of gloop, chuntz, mulch and squish. This came in either brown or yellow, and its provenance could only have been the slurry pit.

Tea time represented more of a social problem than a culinary one. Tea was held in the boys' study/bedrooms, and nobody wanted to hold tea in their own room. Nimbly ruled, as tea would leave a room fouled with crumbs, jam, milk and Frosties. So, at the beginning of each term, there was a fight over whose rooms were going to be used, and, who was going to eat in which room. Discussions were held in secret, along the lines of — "I'll only have tea in my room if I get to have it with Nick and Adam, but certainly not with Rupert." It was a vicious process of natural selection, which left many emotionally scarred.

Because the food was so bad, many sought sustenance from alternative sources. The school tuck shop was good for the occasional roll and bag of sweets, but not much more. Tudor Stores along the



Eton meals: Meat and veg didn't appeal

high street was perhaps the best — the owner must now be a millionaire from his sales of Frosties alone.

However, a real treat was to go to Windsor and its McDonald's. There, one could smoke undetected all afternoon and stuff down countless Big Macs. I ran a profitable sideline operating a Saturday night "McDonald's Run". By night, a friend and I would hurry across the playing fields to buy scores of hamburgers and flog them at a vast mark-up to the younger boys. They were cold, of course, but they were eaten with delight. The enterprise folded when we were caught, but by then we had graduated to buying up the contents of a certain office in Slough.

I remember one good meal at Eton. One evening, a friend invited me to have a Vesta curry in his room. It was sensational, especially as he had managed to make it with nothing more than a cafetière and a kettle. Naturally, neither of them were his. They were Rupert's.



Madhur Jaffrey as the Begum: "I based her face on an aunt I liked who had that imperiousness in the expression that ran in our family"

Top of the caste list

It is 13 years since we first saw Madhur Jaffrey in Merchant/Ivory's *Heat and Dust*, playing the supercilious, white-haired, betel-chewing Begum with her opera glasses and her cigarette-holder, watching as her son the Nawab falls for the English rose, Greta Scacchi.

In the film the Begum doesn't speak a word of English, and is on screen only fleetingly, yet that role established Ms Jaffrey as our favourite Indian film actress. Originally, however, Ismail Merchant and James Ivory told her there was no part for her in the cast.

"I was really hurt. How could they do an Indian film without me? So I pleaded with

It is hard to believe that Madhur Jaffrey had to plead for the role that made her our favourite Indian actress

Jim to play the Begum. He said, 'But she's so much older than you. You played Shashi's mistress before [in *Shakespeare Wallah*], how could I cast you as his mother? It would be so ungallant.' And I said, 'I'm an actress. I really don't mind'."

So she became the Begum, ageing two decades without the aid of makeup. "Essentially, I just down-turned all the lines of my face. I based her face on that of my father's eldest sister, an aunt I liked, who had that imperiousness in the expression that ran in our family."

Heat and Dust, one of the best films ever made about India under the Raj, is re-released next Friday as part of this summer's Indiafest for the 50th anniversary of independence. Ms Jaffrey, serenely elegant at 64, is "old enough to have been present at the last spasms of colonial India".

Madhur Bahadur grew up in Delhi in an upper-middle-class Hindu family that knew its place in life, and it was an agreeable place. The Bahadurs were of high caste; her grandfather, a judge, had dined with Queen Victoria.

"My father, a member of the Congress Party, took us to films all the time, and when the British national anthem was played, we would always walk out, my father leading, my mother following. It was our mild protest. That was the most violent it got in the Bahadur family."

In other respects they followed Gandhian peaceful precepts. "When Gandhi told us to spin and weave, I went and bought a little spinning wheel, learnt how to spin, and wore the *khadi*, the handwoven cloth. I felt very much a part of Indian independence."

She was the fifth child, the most rebellious and curious. "I am so grateful to my father that he took me, aged 13, the only one of his six children, to be among the millions of people to see the flags change. I will never forget the vision of Nehru and Lord Mountbatten in a horse-drawn carriage, both in white, and everyone throwing their hats in the air. It was a grand moment."

"Naively, I thought independence would bring the whole country together. But suddenly my own class, in a girls' school that was half Muslim and half Hindu, became split. We had all been friends, who would sit and eat together, and suddenly we separated, and I was the only one asking both sides why can't we get along? Half my class left for Pakistan, and refugees arrived."

Then came the dark days of violence and rioting. "There was a great fear, which I had never known before, and have never since felt, of physical violence. The mob would be marching towards the house,

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



The energy, the fanfare, the gall of it are all Israel.

When her daughters (now in their thirties) were five, four and two, and Ms Jaffrey's life was somewhat chaotic — she was divorced from Saeed but still acting in New York — she sent the girls home to India to be looked after by her mother and her large extended family.

"I spoke once about this, and found these screaming headlines about how I'd abandoned my children. The floodgates opened. I have regretted it ever since. I did not abandon my children: I sent them where they could have the stability I had had. The story won't die, so let's kill it off. None of us is tortured with guilt about it. We all get on with our lives. One daughter is acting, one's teaching and the eldest is a writer." (Zia Jaffrey has just published her first book, *The Invisibles*, about eunuchs.)

Her husband for the past 30 years has been the black violinist Sanford Allen. Ms Jaffrey has finished a new vegetarian cookbook. Her

career as cookery writer and broadcaster was a bonus. "I think of myself as an actress who cooks." As a child, nothing excited her more than the arrival of the *khomchak-wallah*, with his basket of *chaat*. She liked hers with enough chillies to bring tears to the eyes. She often goes to Balymaloe in Ireland, a gourmet's mecca, where she gives courses in Indian cookery.

I discovered at Balymaloe that 'maloe' means honey, which is the same word as my name, Madhur. It has the same root as 'mead', she says, adding, "I always hated being called Honey."

Her next film, which she will direct and act in, will be produced by Ismail Merchant: it is a story of Anglo-Indians. She still feels passionate about India, and about the partition. "It was a wrenching event, and every time I think about it I feel the wrench. When I meet Pakistanis it just kills me because I feel we're so much alike, we have so much in common. And as the years go by, and the radical elements in both India and Pakistan get louder and louder, we grow further and further apart."

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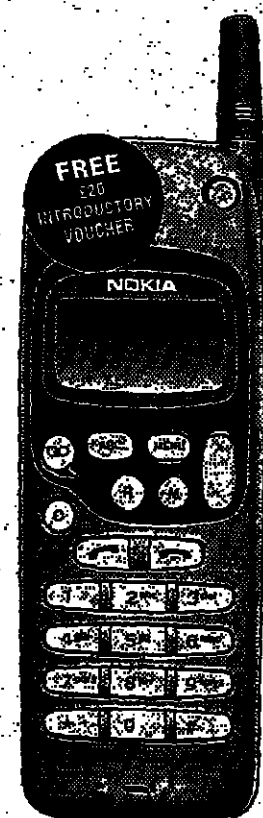


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Nº1 Nationwide

Trading barons for businessmen

John Lloyd on why Labour is turning away from the unions

New Labour's view of the trade unions is largely past. They are not much of a threat — or where they are, they can be faced down, to the advantage of poll ratings. They cannot get a grip on their sliding memberships, continuing to lose out in the still-shrinking manufacturing companies, unable to recruit more than token numbers in the growing service and professional sectors.

Most insulting for the trade union leaders is that they are aware that new Labour sees them as unable or unwilling to pick up the challenge of restructuring. To new Labour, the barons remain baronial, insisting on limousines and vast offices from which they can no longer dispose of much. The baronial period has ended in the labour movement; enlightened abolitionism has taken its place. Labour no longer wants or needs partners in governance: it will get trade union members' votes in any case. It will fulfil more of a union agenda than the Conservatives and earn the millions put up by the unions to assist in election.

Any closer relationship has been blown by the events of the past two decades. The destruction of the last Labour Government by public sector strikes in 1978-79, and the quasi-insurrectionist mood which the miners' leadership attempted to whip up in 1984-85, rendered void any revival of the 1970s attempt — by both the Conservative and Labour Governments — to create a British corporatism. That period is, in present political discourse, largely forgotten or demonised. The "Anglo-Saxon" way is now held to be anti-corporate, individualist, free market, but the corporatist instinct is not so easily banished. While the door of No 10 is closed to the union barons, it has been opened to the princes of the boardroom. New Labour, in dismissing the union movement as its partner in government, now seems set to offer the role to business.

The danger in this has been highlighted by the largest blot on Labour's early copybook, the matter of Lord Simon's shareholdings. The Minister for Competitiveness in Europe decided, midweek, to reverse his decision to retain £2 million worth of shares in an offshore trust; he said he had received information from BP that he no longer possessed sufficient insider information to make the sale improper. This may be the case, but it sounds like one of those things which has been got up to throw a bone into the jaws of the Opposition and the media. Lord Simon, who had a high reputation at BP, was troubled in government from the start. He was originally destined for a European brief at the Foreign Office; but Robin Cook, then Shadow Foreign Secretary, had not been told of this, and when he was told (by a newspaper), he protested angrily. Lord Simon was then shifted to the Department of Trade and Industry and a new portfolio created for him,

which got him "into Europe", but via, as it were, the tunnel rather than the ferry.

It seems clear from his own rehearsal of the events surrounding his shareholdings that he tried to deal with the wealth he had acquired during his chairmanship of BP in a reasonable way, though not a wholly transparent one. He did not declare the holdings; and offshore funds, though legal, have an air of avoidance about them — and are something on which the Chancellor, when a shadow of his present self, poured much scorn.

When the issue became a parliamentary football, the Prime Minister defended Lord Simon as though his own personal honour were at stake. His clinching argument was that the Tories — in exposing the arrangement — were deterring business people from joining government and were ruling themselves out as a serious party of business.

Yet, would not Labour have attacked as fiercely had Lord Simon been wooed into government by the Conservatives? Was there not — even accepting that Lord Simon would not exercise his ministerial power to his private benefit, or to that of his former company — an issue to answer? Was it so crystal clear that there was no dissonance between Lord Simon's arrangements and the high standards to which new Labour has repeatedly committed itself.

As the Simon affair was settled by the disposal of shares whose possession had been defended as the most proper variant possible, a report was published from the committee on corporate governance, set up by the City and chaired by Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, a fellow petro-chemicals prince. The Hampel report, in broad terms, sought to put a stop to what its chairman sees as a slide towards soft standards in business life. "The balance has been too much directed at accountability," he said. "And not enough at prosperity. I am eager to see the balance corrected."

Here is the voice of the boardroom, anxious to put a stop to any loose talk of stakeholding, or diverse constituencies to which executives must be responsible — talk which Labour, in opposition, once encouraged, indeed talked itself. The TUC, reacting to Hampel, appealed to this receding memory: Brendan Barber, its deputy general secretary, said: "The Government needs to act if we are to tackle corporate excess and short-termism in industry."

Will it? Does it think short-termism is a government matter, or even that it exists as a problem? As for corporate excess — well, how fat should a cat be allowed to be?

New Labour cannot say: we do not care how fat the cat is, so long as he is inside our tent. That is too much like Old Labour. The principle is not changed just because the cat has.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.



Africa's real epidemic

Corruption is so widespread that African leaders no longer disappoint us; we no longer expect anything

In 1955 the Government of Southern Rhodesia published *Servant and You*, a guide for settlers newly arrived from Britain. "Do not lose your temper with a native servant," it said. "His women are his inferiors and it is asking for trouble for a woman to scold a native (especially in the presence of other natives) or, above all, to strike him. The law forbids you to give the African alcoholic liquors. He has his own national drink (kaffir beer) which he likes and is good for him, but sometimes he is misled into drinking skokan (a strange and deadly brew of local ingredients) or into accepting European drinks to which he is not accustomed."

Incredible as it may seem to younger *Times* readers, the tenor of that advice did not, by the standards of the day, seem racist. It would have been scoffed at by many settlers as radical. When the self-governing British territory's Prime Minister, Sir Godfrey Huggins, described his vision of a "partnership" between the white and black races — "the partnership of the rider and the horse" — few in Salisbury raised an eyebrow at the equestrian analogy. It was his use of "partnership" that surprised. Plainly, Sir Godfrey was a cautious liberal.

Surveying today the wreckage of peoples and governments across Africa, we should never indulge ourselves in false memory of a golden age, friendly and just, that never was. My family settled in Southern Rhodesia in the late 1950s and we were there during the rise of Ian Smith, and after his unilateral declaration of independence in 1965. My boyhood and adolescence left me with a hatred of prejudice, which I shall take to the grave. I learnt suspicion of the white supremacist assumptions that lay at the core of European colonialism.

Colonialism, however, was in retreat. Ghana achieved independence in 1946, the year before we arrived, and Harold Macmillan's "wind of change" was soon to blow away Washington. It was soon to blow away British, French, Portuguese and Belgian administrations.

In much of the Western world these shifts were welcomed by thinking people. Even among settlers a liberal minority was optimistic. That minority included my family. We had heard the first of the new black leaders, Kwame Nkrumah, in Ghana: "The African, given the chance, will prove to the world he is capable of managing his own affairs." We believed him. Forty years have passed. It is time to

ask whether that hope has been vindicated. Do me the courtesy of dwelling on this alone, without asking why or whom to blame, and certainly without supposing that the old order was defensible. Let us just consider this bare question: has Africa proved capable of managing its own affairs?

I suggest it has not. Modern Africa is a political, social and economic shambles. Its fate makes for wretched reading. Adlai Stevenson once said the American public would do anything for Latin America, except read about it. We seem content to dispatch small dollops of aid to relieve manifest suffering in Africa, but would rather not dwell on the problem. Perhaps to know more would betray the futility of our offerings? So we sign the cheque and think no more about it.

How is Africa doing? Amnesty International is blunt. The refugee crisis in the African Great Lakes region is the world's most serious. A million and a quarter people scuffle between Burundi, the Congo, Rwanda, and Tanzania, attacked by armed gangs. In West Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria stand accused of gross human rights abuses. Their neighbours behave little better: 41 African countries are detailed in Amnesty's 1997 annual report. In South Africa 500 people died in urban warfare in KwaZulu Natal last year.

For the numbers who have perished across the continent in the past half decade, no estimate more precise than between 500,000 and a million can be offered. In a few countries the collapse has been steady. Kenya, now flying in the thick approach to disintegration, has taken more than three decades to lose all its Jomo Kenyatta, and after him Julius Nyerere who wrecked the Tanzanian economy, were lionised in the Western media. Even Kenneth Kaunda, whose Government in Zambia came to amount to little more than a standing joke with a High Commission in London and an airline, enjoyed saviour status for a while. The Government of his successor, Frederick Chiluba, has lurched into corrup-

tion and electoral fraud. Of Lesotho, there is nothing to be said and of Guinea-Bissau we do not speak. From Rwanda and Burundi we turn in shame: half a million butchered. I remember Rwanda as a gentle, populous, sunny backwater.

At the Congo we weep, as one tale of disgrace and slaughter replaces another. There, Laurent Kabila achieves the distinction of failing, even before he has started, to attract hopes that he might be better than his predecessor. We in the West used to allow ourselves the luxury of being disappointed in African leaders. We are no longer disappointed because we no longer expect anything.

Somalia? Ethiopia? Clinging their way forward from decades of anarchy. Most of the former French West Africa cannot usefully be discussed as "countries" at all. The picture there is now so absurd that even the French are un-

able to take it seriously. The tale of Nigeria — the sheer self-destruction — is fabulously wicked.

Sierra Leone is only pathetic. About 400,000 Sierra Leoneans are internally displaced. 280,000 have fled to neighbouring Guinea and 100,000 to Liberia — as another 400,000 Liberians have fled to Sierra Leone. The third city of Sierra Leone, Gerdama, is a displaced-persons camp. There are a further 600,000 Liberians in Guinea and 250,000 in the Ivory Coast, so you may ask what being a State in this region means. None of the governments (apart from the Ivory Coast) maintains the schools, bridges, roads and police forces in a manner consonant with functional sovereignty.

With one tenth of the world's population, Africa now boasts half the world's refugees. Infrastructure is in such tatters that in many countries the question arises of whether the regime satisfies the basic criteria in international law for the existence of a state. Domestic law enforcement is often only a memory. Some governments have lost control by day, few retain control at night. Some are still able to

protect tourists, few are able to protect their own citizens. The continent now includes most of the most dangerous places in the world.

Apart from the former Belgian colonies, it is Portugal's old empire in which the collapse has been most striking. In 1975 Angola had a thriving economy. Now towns and cities have been blitzed, public works are shattered and huge areas are landmined. A traveller returning from Beira in Mozambique (where as a child I used to go on seaside holidays) told me things were now so desperate that the animals in the zoo had been killed or eaten, and people had made their homes in the cages. Anecdotes, exaggeration, fact and myth tangle together in travellers' tales. Only a handful of African countries operate the elementary system for the collection of tax and revenue that a state needs, to be a state. Nigerian Electrical Power Authority — NEPA — has become known as Never Electrical Power Again.

Corruption has become an African epidemic. It is impossible to overstate the poisoning of human relations and the paralysing of initiative that corruption on the African scale brings. Sitting on a rickety bus last year in Taveta, a slowly frontier post between Kenya and Tanzania, I found everybody with an official position — right down to the bus conductor — trying to bribe or blackmail everybody else. On the way to Voi, the driver paid off three police "checkpoints". The road itself, of course, was in ruins.

Africa's decline has been to some degree hidden. This is partly because the West simply does not wish to know, and shuts its eyes. Liberals fall silent in embarrassment, reactionaries are contemptuous in their disregard. With the Cold War over, we have little strategic interest in the continent. In part, too, Africa's governments, though they have lost every other faculty of government, have maintained some ability to put on a show of effectiveness internationally. They attend meetings, maintain embassies, drive Mercedes Benzes and daub aeroplane tails in their national colours. They are the painted shells of states.

"Liberation and decolonisation can no longer be equated," writes Ali Mazrui, Kenyan historian and Professor Emeritus at Cornell. Beyond that, I have no thought to append to my tale of political degradation. I shall turn next week to Africa's rotting economic fabric.

Matthew Parris

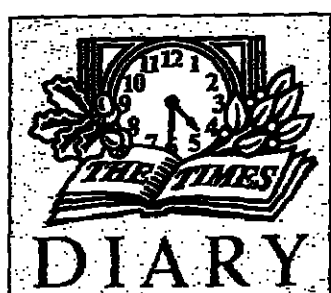
Much ado

NOT since Lord Lambton greeted the firemen who had come to douse his flaming house stark naked and clutching his dogs, has Cetinale, Lambton's Tuscan villa, seen scenes to match those of Wednesday night. New Labour clearly have a lot to learn about summer fun in Tuscany.

The occasion was a party held by Ned and Catherine Durham, the son and daughter-in-law of Lambton, the former Tory MP and air minister. The couple were

staying with a group in a house on the Lambton estate close to Siena, but for the purposes of their party they were allowed to use Cetinale itself, built by Cardinal Chigi in the 17th century and over the past 20 years restored by Lambton.

Partying with the Durhams, however, is not about cheese on sticks and a weak vodka punch. Particularly not when you have a crowd including the likes of Orlando Campbell, the London club owner, and a gaggle of bohemian



youth heady from sun and rosé. As the party went on, couples were spotted ambling up to the miniature hermitage, chasing around the clock tower or retreating deep into the gardens from where rustling noises rose to challenge the cicadas. The atmosphere, in short, went Borgia.

Ned and Catherine have been booted off the estate, "says a friend of the couple. They are going to have to find somewhere else to stay until their flight comes back on Monday."

It may not be so drastic. Lambton has a reputation for

Lip stick

AIR-KISSING, right or wrong, is the debate in the corridors of Stormont at the moment because of the tendency of Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to greet her counterparts, however senior, with

a double-barrelled "mwah." From the look on the face of a recently air-kissed Irish Foreign Minister, you would be forgiven for thinking he had just seen Gerry Adams in orange sash and bowler.

There are two schools of thought on Dr Mowlam's mode of greeting. Her supporters say that it is a sign of her informality and a desire to have everyone relaxed.

Her detractors say it is infra dig and that it becomes harder to crack heads when you have just given everyone in the room two continental smackers. The Northern Ireland office declined to say whether Dr Mowlam had tried to kiss the Rev Ian Paisley, whom she was meeting yesterday.

On their recent visit to film Songs of Praise in Lourdes, the BBC crew amused themselves with a competition to find the most tasteful souvenir in town. Third prize went to a Mother Teresa ash-tray, second to a roll of St Bernadette laundry roll, while top of the pops was a St Bernadette flick knife.

Paying up

WHILE his parents, Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, labour under their debts, Frederick Windsor has decided that he will be carrying on with his Gap year before going up to Magdalen College, Oxford, despite the fact that this will

mean he will have to pay tuition fees. Windsor, who left Eton this year, will have to stump up £2,250 a year for his tuition, on top of his college bursary.

Luckily, the boy looks like a self-starter. When his current job working for an upscale London catering company ends, he is off to France on the hunt for odd jobs.

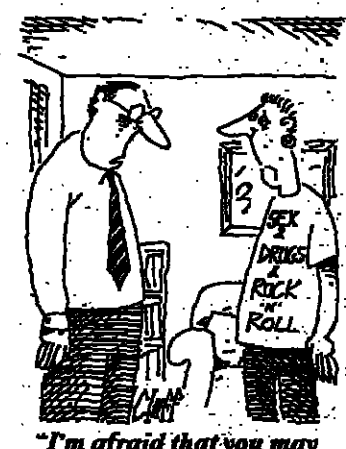
Valley girls

AT a recent concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff, female chorus members were requested not to wear scent. Rehearsals for the performance, which saw a joining of choral forces between Welsh and American singers, had been dogged by lady members trying to out-do each other with the vapouriser.

The choirmaster, David Lawrence, justified the ban to *Classical Music* magazine, saying that had he not imposed the ban, "the smell in the hall would have been overpowering".

Wild one

JUST weeks after the death of Elaine, his wife, P.W. Botha, the former President of South Africa, has a new reason to reach into the afterlife cupboard. Botha, who is 81 and is known as The Great Crocodile, has been seen out with



Renette Naude, 50, who runs a guest-house in the Eastern Cape close to Botha's retirement home in a town called Wilderness. She is said to bear a close physical resemblance to the late Mrs Botha.

"At the moment, I am a lone-some warrior," says Botha, when pressed on the matter of Miss Naude. "If I am to marry I will be the first to announce it."

Miss Naude, it is reported, was taken by Botha the minute she saw how tidy his home was. A test, she is said to have exclaimed, to the efficiency of his staff.

That's a hyphen, dash it

Derwent May puzzles over punctuation

When I was a boy, I had a schoolfriend who was quite good at French, but had somehow never learnt the French word for "comma". So when we had a dictation, he wrote out the word *virgule* every time, getting increasingly baffled by the meaning of the whole piece (he told me later that he thought it must have something to do with Latin). He made matters worse by asking the master innocently at the end of the dictée, "Sir, does French have no punctuation?"

I was reminded of this the other day when I looked at a printout of an article I had written on a computer. The printer cannot reproduce a dash — a punctuation mark I use frequently — and instead produces the following mysterious-looking sign: [EM]. My printouts are sprinkled with this intrusive substitute, just as my friend's were with *virgule*. The explanation is that this curious sign represents a dash the length of an em, a traditional printer's measure based on the width of a letter "m" in the old lead-type days.

Some of the other mysteries of punctuation are described in a new *Penguin Guide to Punctuation* by R.L. Trask (65.99). Mr Trask considers some of the problems of punctuation with modern technology — dashes, for instance, are always difficult, and on word-processors that cannot produce them at all, he recommends using a double hyphen. But the main point that emerges from his book is that the old, classic forms of English punctuation are just as sound as they ever have been. He demonstrates again and again that if commas and colons and apostrophes are used correctly, they are an infallible aid to clarity.

Some of the errors he picks out are ones that have been annoying me lately. One is the tendency to put inverted commas around words just for emphasis, which you often see on advertisements outside shops. He gives a good example of this: We sell "Traditional Pub Food". This has exactly the opposite effect to what was intended, because quote marks like this are properly used to indicate that something is not what it seems. The pub, says Trask, "is unwittingly suggesting it is serving up micro-waved sludge". Another misuse that causes mirth is the placing of hyphens. He cites "antiseptic-killing campaigners" or "our postcard-war world". "Who are these campaigners who kill antiseptics?" he asks. "What is a war world and what is special about a postcard one?"

I have noticed two deplorable tendencies recently. One is the abandonment of the comma before the noughts in "2,000". No doubt in the days when it came in thousands of anything — pounds, people, cows — were not often encountered by many people, and perhaps that comma before the three noughts was more like a gasp of astonishment. Nevertheless, it is still practically helpful when you write "3,000,000" or, even more, if you write "3,000,000,000". It should be kept in good use when writing out thousands.

I also dislike the way that the American use of a capital letter after a colon is creeping in, as in "President Clinton is foolish". He laughs too much. Either the last four words explain why the President must be considered foolish, in which case they are an integral part of the sentence, and the capital "H" is misleading, or his laughing tendency is something additional to his being foolish.

Mr Trask delivers proper blasts against very common errors such as "The bull lowered its head", but he does not perhaps allow enough for the possibilities of original punctuation. Mr P.N. Furbank, the biographer of E.M. Forster, tells me he likes to put a dash sometimes before the last sentence of a paragraph, indicating that this is a new reflection prompted by what has gone before, but one he does not particularly want to expand here. He finds that editors usually cut it out.

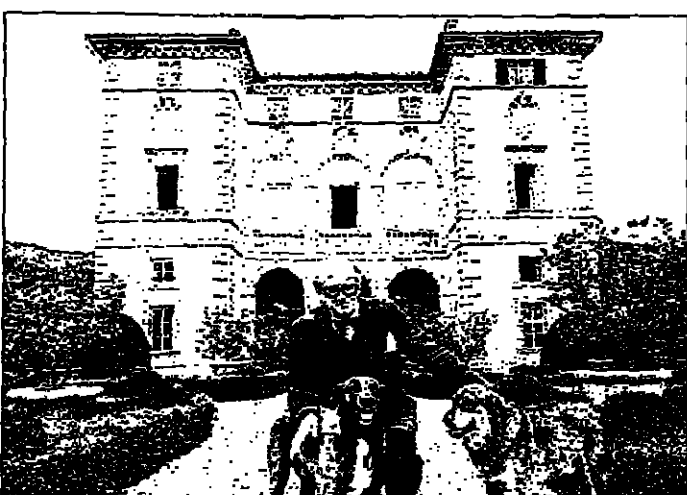
The great original punctuation was James Joyce, and he is at the centre of a tremendous controversy at the moment. A new "Reader's Edition" of *Ulysses* has just come out (Picador, £20), in which the editor, Denis Rose, has changed some punctuation to make it easier to read. Mr Rose is under fierce attack from Joyce's grandson, who calls it "The Rape of *Ulysses*".

Joyce's main innovation was actually to take out the punctuation, in order to convey the impression of thoughts and feelings slipping and gliding into one another in a person's mind. Mr Rose has put a lot of it back. For instance, when Leopold Bloom is ruminating on aristocratic women, he thinks "Lady this. Powdered bosom pearls. The elite." Mr Rose wants "Powdered bosom, pearls." But surely Joyce wanted the sensation of the bosom and the pearls running into each other? Mr Rose's approach seems like taking the splices out of a curdy and asking us to eat them separately.

But commas in other places are vitally necessary. I saw in a paper the other day that a record had "sold two million copies more than any other single released that year". There should have been a comma after "copies". It makes a difference.

P.H.S.

Philip Howard is a copy



Lord Lambton at Cetinale: enjoying the party season



BACK TO BOSNIA

Another American mission to pluck victory from defeat

Richard Holbrooke is back in the Balkans this week. Action by the man who pulled into being the Dayton accord is acutely needed. This was never a deal based on mutual trust. From the moment it was signed in November 1995, it was clear that the continued, persistent involvement of the United States at the highest level would be required if it was not to unravel. Instead, American pressure has until recently been applied somewhat sporadically and its leverage — which far outweighs any that Europeans can bring to bear — has been diminished by the perception that its main concern is to secure its own exit from the troubled Bosnian scene.

Dayton was a piecemeal salvage operation. Mr Holbrooke knows its flaws as intimately as he does the characters with whom he is again dealing this week. He also understands its strength, which is that it dovetails the Nato-led military peace enforcement operation with detailed plans for common central government institutions, coexistence of Serb, Croat and Muslim within the two autonomous republics, the return of those displaced by war and — equally crucially — freedom of movement for all Bosnians within the loose confederation. Dayton's component parts stand or fall together: if the non-military side of the equation collapses, so too, when the international force departs, will the precarious peace.

That is the present danger. From the joint presidency down to a common currency, passport and telephone networks, none of the joint institutions devised by Dayton is working and many are not even in the process of being set up. Refugees of all three communities have been set upon when they tried to go home. Such freedom of movement as exists is mostly exploited by illegal armed gangs and paramilitary units. The mainly Croat-Muslim federation is dysfunctional; Republica Srpska, where President Plavcic is locked in a struggle for power against the theoretically ousted Radovan Karadzic, ignores Dayton and acts as an independent state. Suspected war criminals indicted by the international tribunal at The Hague are not only at liberty but run towns, villages and police forces.

Mr Holbrooke's first step was to extract commitments from President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Alija Izetbegovic, the chairman of the Bosnian joint presidency, to take Dayton's constitutional obligations seriously, protect returning refugees and co-operate with the international tribunal. As Mr Holbrooke observes, these promises have been made before; but there is a new American determination to impose penalties if compliance is not concrete and rapid. This was the relatively easy part of his assignment. However, recalcitrant these two leaders may have proved, their conduct pales by comparison with what Mr Holbrooke rightly characterises as the "all-out obstruction" masterminded from the Bosnian Serb redoubt in Pale by Mr Karadzic, a man who should now be standing trial at The Hague.

Today Mr Holbrooke tackles the Serbian side of this grim equation. In Banja Luka, he has a difficult balance to strike with President Plavcic. Her decision to dissolve the Srpska parliament dominated by Mr Karadzic's supporters and call fresh elections has the support of 15 small opposition parties, and deserves American backing. But Mrs Plavcic must in turn, under pain of sanctions, take Dayton seriously. Mr Holbrooke can offer her critical assistance by reading the riot act to Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, in Belgrade later today.

There are limits to what international pressure can produce, but it is encouraging that those limits are being tested. Critical, however, is the strength of the backing Mr Holbrooke has in Washington. Economic sanctions will not suffice. President Clinton has at least retreated from his unwise insistence that American troops must be out of Bosnia by next June. A pre-set deadline only encourages the opponents of peace. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, promised last May that the Nato-led force would "actively support crucial civil and political tasks" in Bosnia. But the Pentagon has yet to match her words with more active and aggressive patrolling on the ground; and that will be the measure against which the hardened leaders of this region will judge Mr Holbrooke's words.

THIS FAR AND NO FURTHER

An unnecessary rate increase must not be repeated

The Bank of England has taken a risk it considers calculated with a fourth quarter point interest rate rise in succession. It has attempted to dilute the consequences with a declaration that this 7 per cent rate is consistent with the Government's inflation target. Whether it is compatible with the needs of manufacturing industry — still suffering from sterling's strength — is an other question. It may well be that the pound's power is, as the Monetary Policy Committee note, mostly due to factors beyond its direct influence. However, the Bank has chosen not to exercise what effect it might have had on the exchange rate.

The Bank continues to believe that the present level of consumer spending is incompatible with low inflation. It has decided to take a rather narrow approach in its analysis of the economy. Much of the current consumer boom has been driven by windfalls from building societies and insurance companies. These are one-off aces not necessarily part of a broader picture. What proportion has been spent rather than saved is still a matter of contention. The assumption that purchases of durable products — an exceptionally competitive market — will put pressure on prices remains a theory awaiting evidence in practice.

There is, of course, much more to Gross Domestic Product than windfalls and washing machines. That has not been readily apparent in recent interest rate decisions. This week's statistics showed that manufacturing output slipped back in the second quarter. That is to be expected as it has been fifteen years since British firms were less price competitive compared with their continental rivals. The sterling effect has not yet been fully felt on export figures. That moment will arrive soon enough along with the inevitable impact on employment.

The Bank's announcement that interest rates were high enough to deal with inflationary trends sent a signal that recent rate increases were unlikely to be repeated. This unusual act indicates that at least some members of the Monetary Policy Committee consider the status of sterling an important element in their wider evaluation. If the perception that UK interest rates might rise relentlessly had been allowed to persist then the potential damage inflicted would have been enormous. The hope must be that this statement will take some of the steam out of sterling. Whether it does will depend on what the markets make of its plausibility.

The Bank of England needs to convince itself that interest rates have peaked before it can persuade others of that position. To be credible in that quest the Monetary Policy Committee must acknowledge that the next move in the cost of money could now be in a downward direction. Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has openly suggested that recent labour market reforms and technological innovations in the United States have enhanced that economy's non-inflationary growth outlook. A similar exploration of the same phenomena here would be well worth official effort.

If the Monetary Policy Committee does not abandon interest rate increases then the economic impact in the next year or two could well be considerable. The manufacturing sector and exporters of all stripes are already being asked to absorb disproportionate punishment. The present level of interest rates — high enough in real terms — in conjunction with an overvalued pound courts an uncomfortably sharp slowdown. Unless some far more tangible proof of inflationary pressure surfaces the Bank should soon switch its emphasis from managing recovery to mitigating recession.

WHITHER THE WEATHER

The climate is better fickle than forecastable

Since Joseph told Pharaoh that seven fat years would be succeeded by seven lean years mankind has yearned for reliable long-range weather forecasts. With the news this week that the projectors of the Oxford University planetary physics department believe we may be able to make forecasts four years into the future it will be possible to decide, months in advance, when we need our multi-coloured raincoats.

Nothing, however, in this world is absolutely predictable. The notion that the British weather can be guessed four hours hence let alone four years seems, like two dry days in August, just too fantastic to be true. Yet our Environment Correspondent reports today that weather-watchers have already established trends in the record books. Throughout the Nineties the world has been getting steadily warmer and this year is likely to be the world's warmest since Mr Fahrenheit first inspected the mercury. Far, however, from being thankful for their share of global warming, Britons may be tempted to believe they have seldom endured days simultaneously so fair and

fool. The remorseless rise in recorded temperatures has not been matched by any consistency in conditions on the ground. The muggy rankness of the metropolis, with stormclouds succeeding sunshine in a matter of minutes and both barometer and thermometer stretched, only exhausts the office toiler. His country cousin is in an even unhappier state. The Sun, when he deigns to appear, beats down on flooded meadows and fields flattened by rain only weeks before the combine was due to level them. The summer weather has proved more fickle than a focus group.

It is, however, ultimately for the best. It is the capriciousness of the British climate, rather than its temperateness, which has helped form the national character. Britain's rich literary heritage and native pliancy are products of a people who, metaphorically, have their feet in galoshes and their head in a hankie. Never knowing what the weather will be makes the British a nation of gifted improvisers, in conversation and action. Changeable is more than a meteorologists' warning, it is a badge of native pride.

Croatian attitude to refugees' safety

From Mr M. A. Ward

Sir, Two years ago the Croatian Army launched an offensive which culminated in the expulsion of that country's entire Serb minority from their native Krajina, during which many were killed. It later emerged that the Pentagon played a substantial role in equipping and training the Croats, and I have no doubt that Germany and Britain played their part too.

Doubtless the containment of the Bosnian Serbs was necessary to address the military imbalance that existed in Bosnia at the time. In the light of the 1996 Dayton peace accord, however, it is intolerable that the Croatian Serbs are still denied the freedom to resettlement.

Television footage, shown by the BBC earlier this week, of returning Muslims being expelled once again by Croatian mobs, testifies to Zagreb's unwillingness to guarantee the safety of returning refugees, whether Muslim or Serb.

Today you report that Presidents Tudjman and Izetbegovic, meeting in Split yesterday to co-ordinate their position on the return of Bosnian refugees, "promised further co-operation on the peace plan". Past experience shows that such discussions rarely translate into action.

Now we in Britain have a Government which has promised much in the way of a new and ethical foreign policy. It has the opportunity to right an earlier, if necessary, wrong. It should insist that the Croatian Government accept its peacetime responsibility and take a lead in allowing its displaced minorities home.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. WARD
(Assistant to the Chief of Staff,
European Community Monitor
Mission in former Yugoslavia, 1992),
2 White Friars, Chester, Cheshire.
August 7.

Work experience

From Mr Robin Spott-Smith

Sir, It is a shame that Miss Henrietta Lacey (letter, July 31) did not enjoy her work experience in Chambers (not, incidentally, the set of which I am a member). But if she understood that the object was that she should learn about the work of barristers I suspect that she was mistaken. More likely the purpose was for her to find out something about the work of barristers' clerks, and the duties of a junior clerk do include running messages and making tea.

I expect Miss Lacey would also have had the opportunity of observing the work of the senior clerks, but she can hardly be surprised that she was not asked to undertake such tasks as booking in briefs and negotiating fees with solicitors.

If Miss Lacey still wants to find out something about barristers' work she can apply, when she is a little older, for a "mini pupillage". On the other hand, she may care to reflect upon the fact that the legal profession is grossly overcrowded, and to concentrate on magazine publishing, her other work experience.

Yours truly,
ROBIN SPOTT-SMITH,
1 Mitre Court Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
rspottsmith@compuserve.com
August 1.

From the Chairman of the
Institute of Barristers' Clerks

Sir, I wonder if Miss Lacey's school made it clear that she wanted to observe the work of the barristers in Chambers rather than the administration, or indeed both.

Whilst no one would condone the misuse of work-experience students, ordinary tasks such as message-taking are a regular feature of most offices. Even the larger sets of Chambers are relatively small organisations. Being part of a small, close-knit team such as that to be found in a typical clerk's room can, and does, provide a very worthwhile placement if the student is prepared to "muck in".

Yours faithfully,
S. GRAHAM,
Chairman,
Institute of Barristers' Clerks,
4a Essex Court, Temple, EC4.
August 6.

Cricket and manners

From Mr M. A. Girling

Sir, In the many school cricket matches of all ages that I have watched in the past few years (letters, August 4), the following traits have become more and more common: continual clapping from the fielding side for the majority of balls bowled, however good or bad they may be; appeals from all parts of the field for lbw decisions; frenetic congratulations after every wicket taken; talking ("slogging") by some members of the fielding side to current batsmen.

Whatever reasons one may seek to account for these unpleasant traits, there are two categories of persons on whose shoulders the blame for these should firmly rest: national and county teams for promoting them; cricket masters for not stopping them.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. GIRLING,
Oakthorpe,
Charlton Drive, Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
August 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Head lice and return of the nit nurse

From Dr Honor Merriman

Sir, I am grateful to you for publishing the articles on head lice by Denis MacShane, MP, and Dr Thomas Sutcliffe (Weekend Review, August 2). The problem is widespread and needs a consistent approach.

Because pesticides have been used inconsistently, many now seem to be relatively ineffective. Oxfordshire Health Authority has now proposed bug-busting, which entails wet-combing with a nit comb. The hair needs to be shampooed and have conditioner applied first — the lice can then be detached by the comb.

Nit-combing dry hair does not detach adult lice. The regime needs to be followed at least four times in a fortnight. The whole class and all family members should be involved over the same time period. No smelly pesticide is needed.

The reintroduction of the school nurse to inspect heads seems a waste of scarce public money. Lice cannot be reliably detected on dry hair — the nurse's main role may be to stimulate mothers who may otherwise not believe that their child could be infected.

Yours faithfully,
HONOR MERRIMAN
(General practitioner),
The Manor Surgery,
Osler Road, Headington, Oxford.
honor.merriman@cablenet.co.uk
August 4.

From Dr R. T. Dawson

Sir, The head louse is predominantly a scalp — rather than a hair — dweller and lays its eggs within one centimetre of the scalp. The time and duration of infestation can be measured by the distance of the nit from the scalp, since hair grows at one centimetre per month.

The louse feeds on blood rather than debris and so far from preferring long, matted hair, as Dr Sutcliffe suggests, it likes short hair and clean scalps: so much for Dr Sutcliffe's "wild Byronic locks and beards

of the traditional left wing". Nevertheless, women are three times more likely to be affected than men.

Since many light infections can initially be missed, the best approach is to regularly wash your hair, thus causing the louse to close its air hole and slow its movement. Then use conditioner, causing the hair shaft to become slippery and allowing combing with a fine-toothed comb to remove eggs and lice. It is only if infested that one uses chemicals to kill both.

Head lice are transmitted by head-to-head contact, with one louse visiting several heads in one day. This may account for the outbreak in the now-packed Labour benches at Westminster.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT T. DAWSON
(General practitioner),
Adderstone House, Dene Road,
Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear.
August 3.

From Mrs Russell Osborn

Sir, Much as I hate the label, I am glad that Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has called for the return of the "nit nurse".

Education is the key to detection, prevention and treatment of head lice, yet the number of school nurses providing this education has been severely reduced in recent years. No wonder that the number of prescriptions for headlice treatments has quadrupled in some areas.

Children who suffer from nits for many months "feel lousy", which affects their education. If the Government is concerned about the health education of our schoolchildren, the school health service must not be further reduced.

Yours sincerely,
PIPPA OSBORN (school nurse),
85 High Street,
Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex.
russell.osborn@awl.co.uk
August 3.

will all the executive directors be at risk? And what will happen if it turns out that the uncooperative partner in this debate is the social services director of a Labour-controlled local authority?

The policy also seems to ignore the fact that even the most co-operatively minded trust manager will have a struggle to deliver if the local health authority has been in some way deficient with its service purchasing arrangements.

This new approach may well have wider implications. It already shows a distrust by ministers of the abilities of the NHS trust to deliver agreed policies without the need for central intervention.

It is also clear that NHS management in future will owe more to the beating of the ministerial stick than the spirit of co-operation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL JACK
(Opposition spokesman on health),
House of Commons.
August 1.

Law Society election

From the President of the Law Society of England and Wales

Sir, In his open letter addressed to me, "Action now, not words, please" (Law, July 29), James Morton adopts a robust stance in his attack on the Law Society. However, I dispute his interpretation of my approach to the presidency of the Law Society, and he misquotes my own words when suggesting that my key phrase should be "actions not words".

I fought the election for the President of the Law Society under the banner "progress, not politics" (not as he said "policy not politics"). I won the Law Society's election because the solicitors' profession felt it could trust me to end the in-fighting and internal politics which had so undermined the effectiveness and standing of the society.

The Law Society and the solicitors' profession face considerable challenges in the year ahead. It is my job to ensure that the society becomes more efficient and accountable, as well as providing the necessary leadership and practical support to the profession.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP SYCAMORE,
President,
Law Society of England and Wales,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.
August 1.

Anti-hunting Bill

From Mr E. Williams

Sir, It was indeed ironic that Peter Riddell's discussion on the need for parliamentary reform (July 30) to prevent the horrors of inadequately drafted and hastily considered Bills should appear on the same page as a report on the bizarre suggestions by Labour MP, Mr Michael Foster, about the possible nature of his Private Member's anti-hunting Bill [see also letter, August 5].

This, we were assured, may after due consultation allow farmers to hunt and kill rabbits with their dogs, but apparently not hares; permit dog walkers' pets to attack foxcubs by mistake and packs of hounds to chase foxes, but only if people took pot shots

at the fleeing fox. On the other hand, it might not.

Faced with such vacuity it is a matter of considerable satisfaction that new Labour appears to prefer to use its time reforming Parliament rather than giving active support to such nonsense.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD WILLIAMS,
11 Lower Down,
Lydbury, Shropshire,
July 31.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Bowing to fashion in the concert hall

From Mr Piers Ricketts

Sir, In his irritation at the applause accorded to as many as five or six individual members at the end of an orchestral concert, Mr Brian Lockett (letter, July 31) perhaps fails to recognise the contribution which these players make to an orchestra's sound. While orchestral playing is indeed a collective activity, there are parts which have to be prepared by the players with as much care as a full solo performance.

When he founded the Philharmonia Orchestra just after the Second World War, Walter Legge recognised the importance of individual players' contributions by recruiting "star" players such as Dennis Brain to lead the sections. Recently, the London Symphony Orchestra spent some of its sponsorship money on hiring established soloists to give a different dimension to its sound.

Given that a fine orchestral performance requires both individual and collective virtuosity, it seems entirely appropriate to applaud individual players or sections when their parts call for outstanding playing.

Having spent ten years as a concert pianist, I can vouch that musicians do not mind such attention; audiences do not seem to have a problem with it either.

Yours faithfully,
PIERS RICKETTS,
3 Mulberry Lodge,
12 Edith Grove, SW10.
August 1.

From Mr Robert E. Macdonald

Sir, Mr Lockett expresses his increasing irritation at conductors' and performers' antics at the end of a concert.

I have already achieved a peak of irritation which has caused me to write to orchestra managers, without apparent success, to protest at the uproar caused by individual instrumentalists who occupy their seats and run over the more difficult parts of their scores before the concert begins, and at the interval. The noise level in the auditorium can sometimes be such that conversation or a peaceful survey of the programme becomes impossible.

It can be readily understood that the brass and wind instruments may need to be warmed up and, if this can not be done before the stage, I can see no justification for it to be carried out at full volume.

Mr Lockett's irritation can be remedied by his walking out. Mine can only be remedied by my not walking in.

Yours truly,
R. E. MACDONALD,
Southdown, Dunvegan Drive,
Newton Mearns, Glasgow.
August 1.

Lottery cash in London

From Mr David W. Armitage

Sir, Mr Trevor Phillips, chairman of the London Arts Board, is correct when he writes (letter, August 4) that London is the home of most of our national cultural institutions.

But these flagship companies belong to the nation and should venture out a little more than they do at present to visit the regions, from where a large proportion of their subsidy from taxation or the lottery is gathered.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. ARMITAGE,
14 Scar Top, Golear,
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.
August 4.

Jeeves named?

From Mr Michael Greener

Sir, I hesitate to take issue with a statement made by Jeeves himself, but I must query his assertion in your leading article (July 26): "I have never revealed my first name, not in the Ganyemede Club member's book. The information is irrelevant".

May I remind him that during the treasons, stratagems and spoils that surrounded the by-election at Market Snodsbury, where Ginger Winship was standing in the Conservative interest and where Bingley, having purloined the Club book, was threatening mayhem, the latter referred to Jeeves quite confidently and without contradiction as Reginald.

However, as Jeeves himself remarked, Bingley was "not a man to be trusted".

Yours faithfully,
M. J. GREENER,
33 Glan Hafren, Maes-y-coed,
Barry, South Glamorgan.
August 2.

Play within a play

From Mr I. M. Morfett

Sir, The problem with *The Archers* production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (letter, August 5) is that it is just too good. Even at the rehearsal stage it sounds like a production from the Royal Shakespeare Company at its best. Does this imply that the good people of Arden are all superlative players, or that the actors who play them just can't act.

Yours truly,
IAN MORFETT,
14 Sollershot West,
Letchworth, Hertfordshire.
August 6.
